



The Other Press

Drinkin' Fightin' and Writin' since 1976



BCGEU STRIKE

Some Observations from the Strike: Page 6

The Other Press

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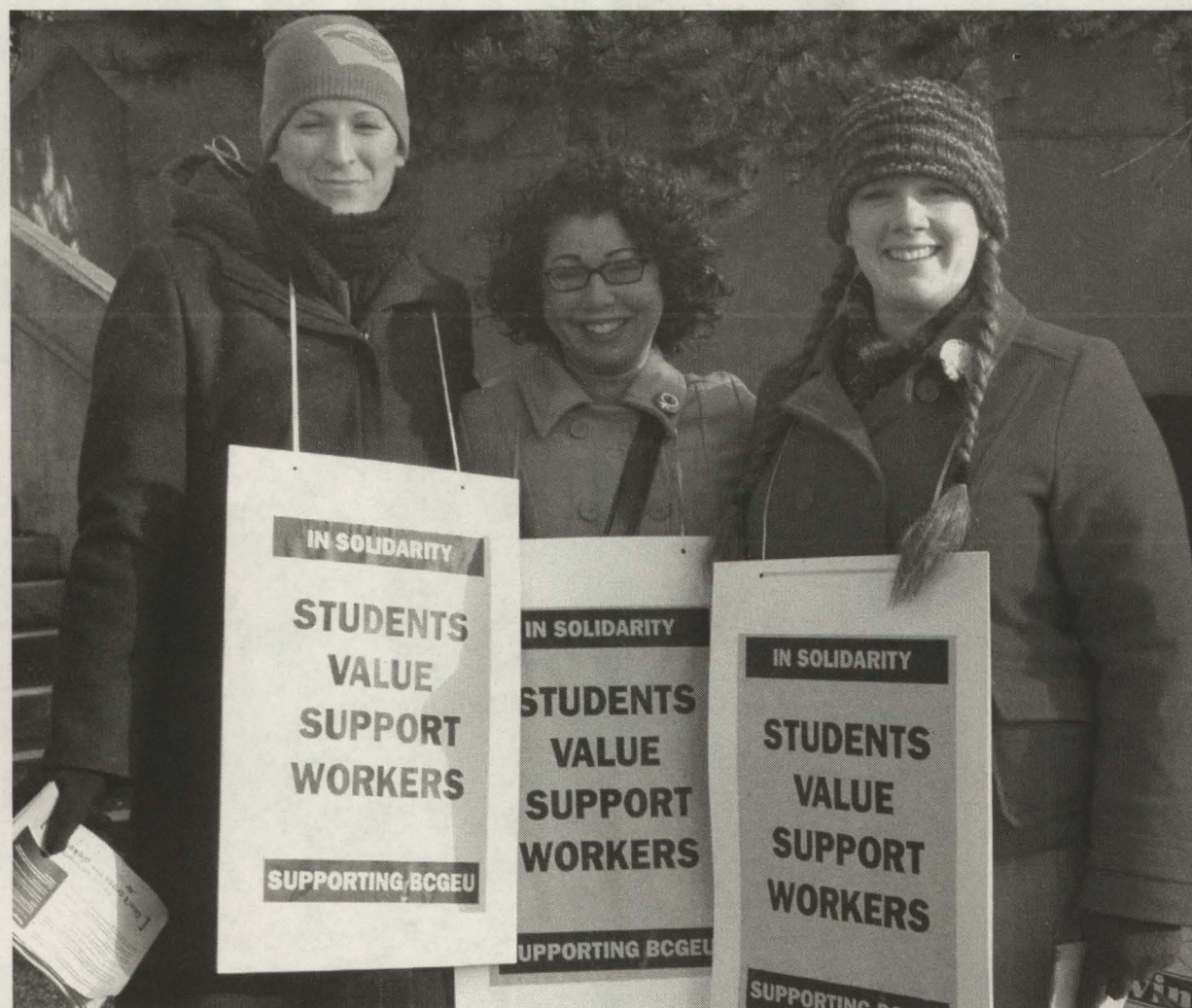
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Submission Guidelines

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday for publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor at: <othereditor@yahoo.ca>.

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, phone number/email address, and word count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.



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reserves the right to choose what to publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist, or homophobic. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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Lettitor

Hey folks,

I know, I know, it seems like we've only just been reunited and now we're leaving you again. It's not you, though, it's us. You see, The Other Press has been invited to Edmonton to attend the 67th annual national conference of the Canadian University Press (CUP) from Jan 19–25. Since we will be very busy attending seminars and networking with the cream of Canada's future journalism crop—we will be unable to create next week's issue of this fabulous publication you have come to adore so.

Now, I know some naysayers claim that the national CUP conferences usually involve more tequila-fueled late-night snowball fights and various other forms of drunken buffoonery than actual discussion and improvement of student-journalism technique—but the people who say that are probably just bitter because they don't get to compete in the annual CUP conference's body-shot or wet-t-shirt contests. But seriously, our delegates this year will be on their best behaviour as representatives of your fine college. And, hopefully, they'll even learn a thing or two to dazzle you with in the coming semester.

Oh, and now that I've disappointed you with news of our one-week hiatus, I suppose I should tell you that we won't be here the following week either. But, if it's any consolation...neither will you. Yup, it's already time for Reading Break, can you believe it? I'm sure there's nothing you would rather read during your reading break than the OP, but I couldn't in good conscience take you away from your studies like that.

Don't worry though; we're not totally heartless around here. It's not like we're just gonna take off for two weeks and leave you with nothing at all. Why, this issue you are reading right now is so good, it'll be sure to tide you over till we meet again. We've got articles about the BCGEU strike, a first-hand account of the tsunami in South-east Asia, the disturbing image of an angry naked Colin Miley doing jumping jacks, tips on how to have affordably priced organic produce delivered to your door, and the latest on the NHL, NBA, NFL, and various other sporting-association acronyms.

So, let's just enjoy our time apart from each other. Perhaps, after taking this break, you'll realize just how much we really mean to you. And if not, too bad—we're still coming back, so deal with it.

—Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor

Contents

news	4
Tragedy First Hand	4
Shooting From the Hypocrite	5
BCGEU Strike Targets Douglas College Campuses	6
News Wears Short Shorts	7
features	8
It's All Small Potatoes	8
Embracing a Life Without Money	9
Taking a Stand: The case for legalizing prostitution	10
arts & entertainment	12
Celebrities Dig Deep into Their Louis Vuittons to Aid Tsunami Victims	12
A Match Made in Vegas	12
The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	13
Documentary Puts Fox News under the Microscope	14
Passing the Book	16
Whats on Around Town	17
Opinions	18
The Way Things Sometimes Are	18
Post-Secondary Education: The Key to Canada's Future	18
Science Matters	19
Right Hook	20
sports	21
The World of Sports	21
The Best of Sport	21
The Downside of Sports	22
NBA Sports	22
Events Calendar	23
classifieds	23

Tragedy First Hand

Douglas College Student in Asian Flood Zone

Iain Reeve, OP Contributor

TSUNAMI INFORMATION



IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE, GO TO HIGH GROUND OR INLAND

The recent disaster that has befallen Southeast Asia has generated an amazing response from the world. News of the events hit me particularly hard over winter break because a friend of mine, Chiran Livera, also a Douglas College student, was in Sri Lanka as the tsunami occurred. I was pleased to see when the new semester started that he was safe, but severely shaken. This week I approached him about talking about his experiences. These are some of the things he had to say.

The day of the disaster started off fairly normally. Livera's uncle took him and his brother out for a drive to see some of the local scenery. The town he was staying in, and where much of his family lives, is a town called Galle, on the south-

western coast of Sri Lanka. The town is relatively small but densely populated, and the ocean is visible from everywhere. As Livera, his brother, and his uncle stopped to refuel their car, they saw something odd. A wave, slightly larger than usual, had washed up onto land. Curious as to why this was, many people began to walk towards the beach to examine the occurrence. Moments later, the water sucked back swiftly, exposing at least 200 yards of sand normally underwater. Sea rocks and flailing fish were visible from the beach. Someone screamed, and while people were frozen at first, they soon realized what was coming. The entire area went into a panic as people abandoned cars and belongings and ran from the wave as fast as they could. Livera remembers very little of exactly what happened over the next 20-30 minutes, just that they ran up a hill, not deliberately, but as a fortunate matter of chance. They ran until they could not see the ocean anymore and, on the outskirts of town, took refuge in a stranger's house.

After resting for a time, Livera realized that the whole town had become submerged in 5-6 feet of water. People were

constantly running by in a state of total panic, asking for water. No one had any idea of what had just happened. Helicopters began to pass overhead which, he later learned, were used to take water in to the devastated areas and bodies out to fields to be identified. At this point, Livera and his uncle made it slowly back into town to search for their family. When they arrived at the town they had to trek through chest-high water. They saw destruction and drowned bodies all around. The reality of what Livera was seeing had not sunk in. Eventually he made his way to an aunt's house on a hill untouched by the flood and full of people escaping the water. He used the phone to contact his mother and another aunt who were thankfully unharmed. That night, rumours of more waves circulated, and Livera had a sleepless night—checking every noise in the dark, prepared to run at any moment should another wave appear.

Over the next few days Livera watched as ambulances, the military, and aid trucks began to make their way into the town. He says that no one there had any idea that other regions had been affected, or that it was an earthquake that had caused the waves. Many, including Livera, helped at refugee areas set up in temples, clearing bodies and debris out of the town. After a few days, the stench became unbearable as the heat took its toll. He said he was amazed at how quickly the military and

aid agencies arrived. After four days, he left Galle for the capital of Colombo, where he learned of the exact cause of the disaster, as well as the massive aid response that was occurring. He was, and is, genuinely surprised and encouraged by the attention and generosity of the people of the world. He thinks that people have reacted so kindly because this was not a political tragedy. It was something that could not have been prevented. It is not something that has sides or ideologies attached to it. He thinks the money will be a good opportunity for Sri Lanka and other countries; but their government has a history of corruption and must overcome this for the good of the country.

Livera has been at Douglas for six semesters and plans to go to SFU next semester to major in political science. He wants to get involved in humanitarian work with an international NGO. While his experience was a traumatic one, he says it has left him even more certain about what he wants to do with his life. He says that experiencing this type of disaster first-hand, rather than seeing it on TV or reading about it, drives him even more. Lastly, he sees it as an example for future responses. It shouldn't take a disaster for the world to come together, but when one does, there should be no hesitation.

Special thanks to Chiran Livera for sharing his experiences.

Shooting From the Hypocrite

Some Observations from the Strike

Brandon Ferguson, News Editor

"The true hypocrite is the one who ceases to perceive his deception, the one who lies with sincerity."

—André Gide

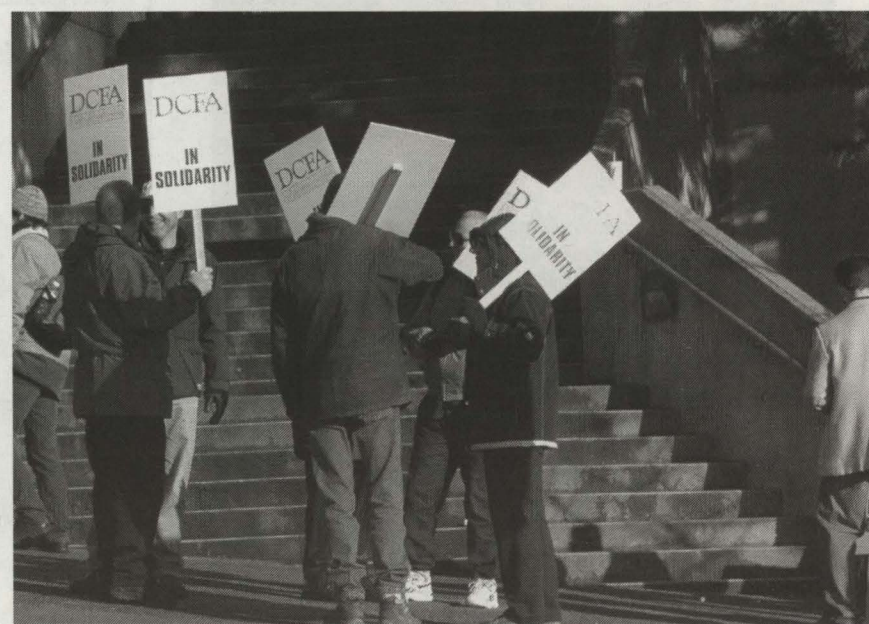
"Away, and mock the time with fairest show; False face must hide what the false heart doth know."

—William Shakespeare

One of the themes that seemed to traipse through the strike last Wednesday, and one that must weave its way through any dispute worth a damn, was that of hypocrisy. We are

always constantly comparing ourselves to those who are not us. It's the American way...in Canada. Your neighbour has a nicer lawn; your sworn enemy has a cuter girlfriend; your girlfriend gives better hand-jobs to your sworn enemy. These examples in and of themselves are simply jealousy. When you feel entitled to the same goods and are not receiving them, you are being petty—except for your girlfriend, because that's just fucking wrong, man. Stand up for yourself. Demand better.

Hypocrisy, however, exists when you are told you do not deserve better by someone who then lavishes themselves with wealth they claimed was unavailable.



Some of the nice people I talked to at the strike last Wednesday said that hypocrisy was prevalent. Here, then, are some instances of the hypocrisy that make up this labour dispute—a labour dispute that

pits the holders of our money against those who want our money—all while we are kept from the classes that we paid too much money for. Hey wait a minute...isn't that hypocrisy?

Continued next page

On Campus Growth:

"Douglas College has the single largest additions in the province. How can you have a growth program without investing in the people? New diplomas and collaborative degrees are being offered, but to do this you have to invest in those who make it possible." So says Robin Wylie, history instructor and president of the Douglas College Faculty Association (DCFA). He was referring to the 1,500 new seats coming to Douglas, the \$5,000,000 expansion on the New Westminster campus, and the new degrees and diplomas now available. With all that cash being spent on our fair campuses, one would like to think that they'd first invest in the people who make it possible to run the place—what is a bureaucracy without its minions?

"It literally doesn't even make capitalist sense. And I can't even get the capitalists to explain it," Wylie added, in possibly the greatest quote I'll ever get.

On Susan Witter's Fat Raise:

"Susan Witter has had a 30-percent raise—they're all making six figures in administration," said Raphaella Weissgerber, External Relations

Coordinator for the Douglas Students' Union (DSU). She said this after having possibly broken the bank buying herself and the DSU babes coffee, while talking to me in my hole-ridden shirt and old shoes, and standing next to the photographer who invested all his money into this semester hoping it would be his last.

On the picket lines, Barbara Hill told me of the 10- to 32- percent raises given to upper-level administrators, wondering aloud, "Where did that money come from?" My pocket, Barbara—the one with a hole in it.

Yes, there are people who make entirely too much money. Good Charlotte, Paris Hilton, and any professional baseball player, for example. But it's hard to start pointing fingers at folks whose jobs we can't do. I can write simple lyrics, I'm pretty sure I could fuck on film, and I don't equate hitting the ball once every four at bats with Hall-of-Fame numbers—yes, I can theoretically do those things (though cameras make me nervous)—but I cannot run a college.

"You can pick out individuals in both employee groups (and make the claim they're overpaid)," said Brad Barber, director of Communications and Marketing for Douglas. "Some of them

may have changed roles or titles. There's a process for job evaluation—for both the BCGEU and administrators—where you look at different factors to see how much that person should receive." Barber added that these raises are sometimes given out retroactively, due to the sometimes long process of evaluation. To look at a person's name and their salary from one year to the next is often unfair and skewed, but no less fun in stirring shit up.

On Fighting Over Our Money:

On this point everyone is a loser, but none more so than the students.

I sympathize with the union workers' needs to be paid fairly and in line with inflation. "We need our jobs," Hill said. "A lot of us are single moms. We'd have been happy to take a cost-of-living increase." And so you should have been granted it. It isn't as if our raised tuition fees went towards improved conditions or quality (I'm not griping about the current quality, I'm just saying we get less bang for our buck now). Where'd the money go?

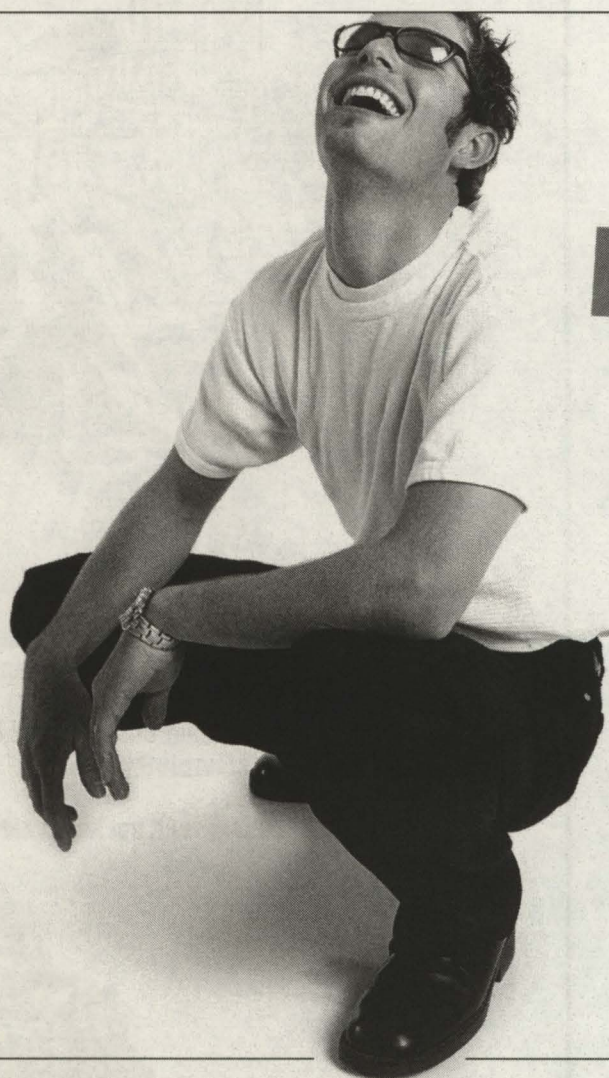
I understand the BC Liberals' desire to mimic American politics—raping and pillaging union coffers and the public sector, pawing and privatizing any public body

they can rid themselves of, only to boast pre-election that they're adding more seats, have a surplus, and are making the province a better place to live. It's nasty but it works. People are stupid, but they vote.

When these strikes happen, people look to the students for support. They claim that it is somehow in our best interest to have the support staff paid equitably. Others claim it is hurting our access to education—or the 1,500 new students that aren't you or me—to have unionized groups grubbing for more money. Whatever the argument, it is an implicitly held belief by both sides that we really give a shit about anyone but ourselves. How selfish of them.

These strikes do happen, and if they have to happen, then it is better now, rather than later. Echoing the sentiments of the BCGEU, DSU, and DCFA, Barber said, "I think that both the college and the union have the students' best interests at heart."

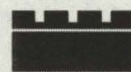
I believe him, but only because he and everyone involved are genuinely good people. It just gets harder to swallow each time we hear it. We are the forgotten foot soldiers of the future.



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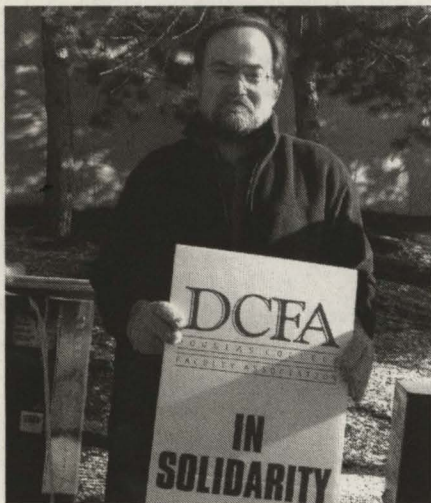
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BCGEU Strike Targets Douglas College Campuses

Thousands of Students Moved to Sleep In

Brandon Ferguson, News Editor



After five straight days of sporadic snow, the sun shone down on Douglas College campuses last Wednesday, turning leftover snow into ice and burning away any feelings of turmoil, unrest, or self-pity. After trekking through sleet and snow to get to school this semester, it was good to wake up and feel warmth on our faces. Everything was as it should be on that glorious hump day of week two.

Except for the picket lines, of course.

On Wednesday, the BC Government and Service Employees' Union's (BCGEU) rolling strike brought its show to the Coquitlam and New Westminster campuses of Douglas College, shutting down classes and services. Only the Cashier and Registrar offices remained open.

From the warmth of the BCGEU website, President George Heyman said, "Our decision to take job action is guided by a basic principle—we will maximize the impact of job action on government and college administrators, and minimize the impact on students."

From the frigid frontlines, Barbara Hill, a departmental assistant with the Faculty of Child, Family, and Community Studies for ten years, felt that the time for action had come after three years of standing idly by.

"We've been patient, just going along with it until now," she said. "We'd have been happy to take a cost-of-living increase (at any point over the last three years). But our paycheque is going lower and lower while the costs of benefits goes higher." To protest, she and some of the other 400 support-staff workers of Douglas College held placards and, well, stood idly by.

In June of 2002, the BC Liberals implemented a zero-percent increase, affectionately referred to as the "zero-

zero-zero" mandate (strangely enough, this is how I refer to my last three girlfriends, too). This enforced freeze—which occurred at the same time as our tuition thaw, mind you—ends on June 30, 2005. Former Finance Minister Gary Collins has said that the zero mandate would end in 2006.

The Wednesday prior (January 5) was the last time the two sides met to negotiate. Since then, talks have broken off. The BCGEU is looking for a new four-year deal that would see a seven-percent wage increase over that time, plus greater access to benefits currently enjoyed by faculty—such as maternity leaves and dental plans. The college reportedly countered with a reduction in education benefits in return for a wage hike.

Out in support of the support workers were the Douglas Students' Union (DSU) and the Douglas College Faculty Association (DCFA).

Summarizing brilliantly, DSU External Relations diva Raphaella Weissgerber said, "DSU supports the support staff. The zero mandate is not fair, and the union is attempting to hurt students as little as possible, so we'd encourage students to respect the picket lines and not cross them. If students support the union, it's more likely to get a fair settlement and not a mandated one."

Robin Wylie, both an instructor of history and the president of the DCFA, was there with protest placards awaiting when the teachers showed up at high noon to lend support to the strike.

"[Faculty are here] because we're fighting the same employer with this zero mandate. That's the big thing: the zero mandate. Everyone is suffering from it."

Should the rotating strike turn into a full-blown strike, Wylie added, "We will not cross any lines. It is DCFA policy and we are 100 percent behind the BCGEU."

While unions were getting together like hairy-crocheted hippies at a love-in, the college was on damage control.

"We really hope that things will be back to normal as soon as possible," Brad Barber, director of communications and marketing for Douglas College, said shortly after taking a pot of coffee out to striking coworkers who called in to jokingly complain of the bitter, sunshiny cold. "I can sympathize with the people out there. They're my coworkers and friends."

To be fair, Douglas College is not the real monster here. Barber points out that they are given both mandates and guide-

lines by the provincial government and are not allowed to stray from either. When the government says they have this much for wages, they have that much and not a nickel more. And bear in mind, it is the province's \$2-billion surplus (taken partially from our student pockets), not Douglas College's.

But this is all political and unionized bullshit, right? You want to know about what matters—you. All sides seem optimistic (almost to the point of delirium) that our semester will be saved faster than you can say "Bettman and Goodenow are ruining hockey forever due to their collective arrogance and refusal to meet in the millionaire middle and compromise."

"I doubt the semester will be cancelled," Weissgerber said. "The fact that they've started the strike now indicates the union's desire to impact students the least. They could have negotiated until midterms and then gone on strike to put pressure on the college, but they haven't."

Barber felt that it was in everyone's best interest to keep their eyes on the resolution prize, saying, "We're not even speculating on that [cancelling the semester]. We're doing everything possible to ensure the semester isn't cancelled. We're hoping to get back to the bargaining table, and focusing on this one hurdle at a time."

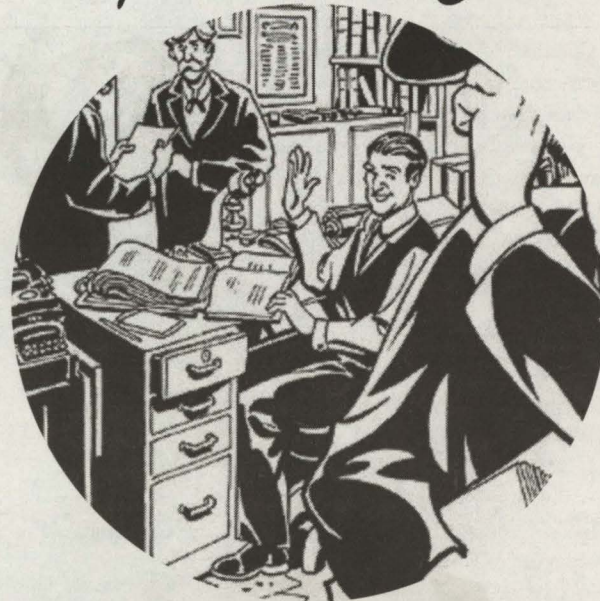
When asked about the likelihood of a cancellation, Wylie said it was "not likely." He added, in storyteller fashion, "In 1989 there was a lengthy teacher strike so the semester was lengthened. (This strike) is inconvenient to the students, but not fundamentally destructive."

The only thing that will solve the labour strife is talk, and Barber was willing to offer the first olive branch salvo.

"We'll make the first move right now and say 'let's sit down again.' The lines of communication are open."

Let's hope the school remains open too, because I sure-as-shit ain't coming back here for another overpriced year, and I'll tell you that much for free.

Being a News Reporter is Cool!



You get to wear a Fedora, drink scotch, and say things like "I'll rot in jail before I'll reveal my sources, damnit."

To join the Other Press news team, contact News Editor Brandon Ferguson, at fergie1b@telus.net

(Scotch and Fedoras will not be provided.)





News Wears Short Shorts

Brandon Ferguson, News Editor

Abbas' Victory Will Hopefully be Swede



Former prime minister of the Palestine Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, was sworn in as the new President on Saturday after a landslide victory in the quasi-nation's first democratic election. The ceremony was set to the backdrop of renewed violence and murder: six Israelis were killed at a Gaza border crossing days earlier, which, in eye-for-an-eye style, was followed by seven Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers. So things are looking up.

Abbas won the election by capturing 62 percent of the popular vote—though terrorist groups protested by not voting.

In his acceptance speech, Abbas said, "I say to the Israeli leadership and to the Israeli people: We are two people destined to live side by side, and to share this land between us. Let us start implementing the road map, and in parallel let us start discussing the permanent status issues so that we can end, once and for all, the historic conflict between us."

Having learned the North American art of lip service, these words may have fallen on deaf ears as Israeli PM Ariel "Don't Call Me Shirley" Sharon has frozen contacts with the new Palestinian government due to the new attacks.

"Mamma Mia!" It's a "Crazy World," and "knowing me, knowing you; there is nothing we can do" to solve this ongoing crisis. To quote Abba: "I've been angry and sad, about things that you do. I can't count all the times, that I've told you we're through." Maybe Israel should tear down the wall and dig in the "Dancing Queen."

Landslide Terminates California

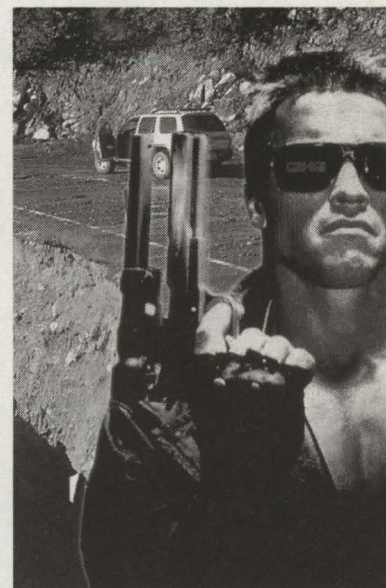
In California, deadly mudslides were triggered by heavy rain in La Conchita, a seaside community in Ventura County. So far, ten people are confirmed dead while hundreds of others are presumed stupid.

La Conchita is what a resident called, "the redheaded ugly stepchild of Ventura County." Located beneath a 600-foot ridge that tumbled down in 1995 after a similarly heavy rainfall, the residents of the area are mostly weirdos who gambled that another slide wouldn't occur—gambled, and lost. Many moved back right after the last slide.

At a town-hall meeting in the wake of the tragedy, residents blamed the govern-

ment for not warning them of God's plans. Said 20-year resident, Annette Beebe, "It seems like they never react to our concerns." (Like, 'help help, the mountain is coming down?') Beebe added, "Compared to Malibu, where the very, very wealthy live, they never have these kinds of problems." That's because God favours the rich, Beebe. I thought you knew.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the site last week, telling the locals to come with him if they wanted to live. He added, "I'll be back" and reassured the survivors that "it's not a tumor." Still, some of La Conchita's residents plan to take legal action. Because what is Hell if not an opportunity to sue?



If Words Were Enough

A peace accord has been signed in the Sudan that requires the Sudanese government to withdraw some 91,000

troops from the southern region of the country over the next 2-3 years, leaving the territory to autonomous rebels. The treaty is aimed at ending Africa's longest standing civil war—a war that has lasted 26 years and consumed over two million lives.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army leader John Garang and Sudanese Vice-President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha signed the accord January 9 in Nairobi, Kenya. A ceasefire was also signed in Kenya, bringing a tentative end to the ongoing horrors in the Darfur region of Sudan. Under the agreement, the Liberation Army is required to remove 30 percent of their rebel troops from Northern Sudan within four months. All

allied paramilitary groups will now be forced to join either the southern rebels or the northern Sudanese armies.

On hand for the signing was US Secretary of State Colin Powell because, well, you know...he's a brother. See? America cares without using its diversity as stategy. President George Duh-bull-you Bush welcomed the accord as a "positive movement toward peace in the longstanding North-South conflict." Powell also observed, "these new partners for peace must work together immediately to end the violence and the atrocities that continue to occur in Darfur."

Then the US invaded Sudan to take their dirt.

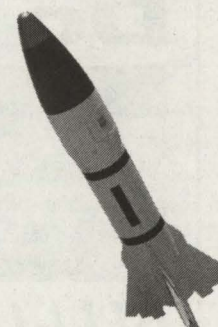
Well, duh

Not that we're shocked or anything, but guess what? Give up? "The weapons that we all believed were there, based on the intelligence, were not there." So said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan last week, to the utter yawn of a nation. Seems like neither the lies nor the truth have any affect on Americans any more. Apparently you can only elicit a reaction when you add "izzle" to what you're saying.

After two years of "edge-of-your-seat" anticipation, the Iraq weapons of mass destruction whodunit finally ended with *Fight Club* like disappointment—it was all a figment of our imaginations.

There was no formal announcement, no speech of concession, and, according to McClellan, no resolve to do anything more than "go back and look at what was wrong with much of the intelligence that we had accumulated." Huh? Are you fucking serious? With an inauguration about to commence, and a Barbara Walters special about to air, an entire nation literally went "meh."

Best of all was how Bush hung his only ally out to dry. With an election in England set for the spring, Tony Blair now has this admission's egg all over his face. The Bush regime waited until post-election to announce what everyone knew to be so, but didn't have the courtesy to do the same for Blair, who faces



an uphill battle for reelection due solely to his closeness with Bush.

I can't believe I'm saying this, but I'm no longer angry about Bush lying—I'm fucking pissed at *how* he's lying. Way to screw up the one thing you've been good at.

It's All Small Potatoes

Melissa Beedle, Features Editor

The life of a student can be hectic. You eat on the run, you eat fast, greasy food, and you rarely eat your vegetables. That is, when you even remember to eat. I have been through more drive thrus than I care to admit. McDonalds, Wendy's, Burger King. I know all their menus by heart. It's not that I don't like eating my vegetables. I do. It's just that every time I buy fruit and veggies, they somehow end up rotting at the bottom of my fridge. *Waste not, want not*, has been my motto. That is until I stepped on the scale late December and noticed that the numbers hadn't exactly stayed the same.

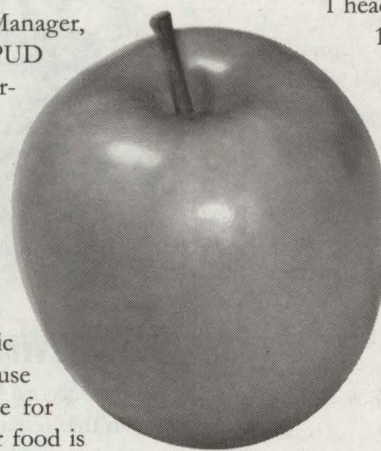
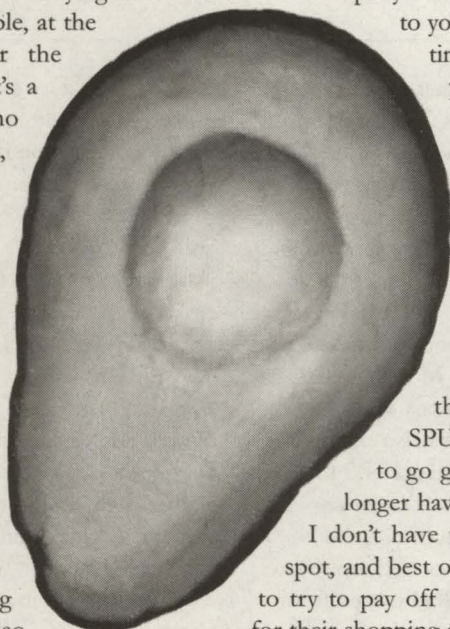
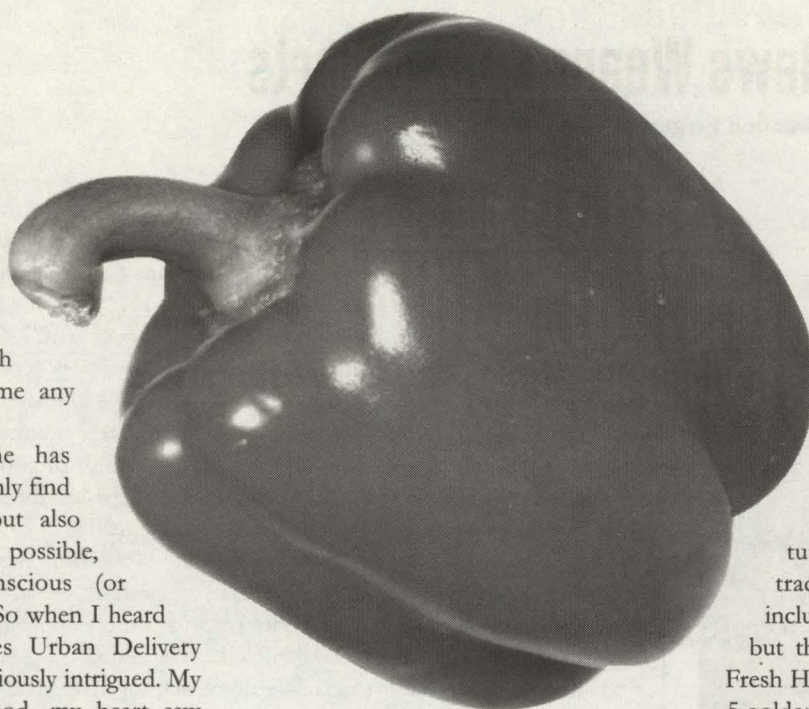
But it's a New Year—a fresh, greaseless start—and this year I am determined to eat a little healthier. In the past, I have had a cheap habit of buying the cheapest food possible, at the cheapest store, for the cheapest price. If it's a no-name brand, no problem, I'll buy it, so long as it's cheap. It all started back in September when I made a pain-inducing budget that I was supposed to stick to (notice that I said *supposed to*). And this bad habit has made my non-profit-worker conscience feel guilty. Just a little. So while I've been saving money, I have also

been supporting some of the best (Canadian) and the worst (Dole) companies in North America. Not to name any names or anything.

Anyway, the time has come for me to not only find food that's cheap, but also fast, healthy, and, if possible, environmentally conscious (or something like that). So when I heard about Small Potatoes Urban Delivery (SPUD), I was mysteriously intrigued. My waist saw healthy food, my heart saw goodness, and my wallet saw conscious spending. SPUD (God bless high-carb potatoes) is a local grocery delivery company that will deliver good grub

to your door weekly or one time only—the choice is yours. They drop the food off on your doorstep in a giant, discreet container, and you get the joy of opening up this container every week, just like Christmas.

The good news is that shopping with SPUD means I don't have to go grocery shopping. I no longer have to stand in line-ups. I don't have to fight for a parking spot, and best of all, I no longer have to try to pay off three different people for their shopping carts. The bad news is,



SPUD gets its produce from 60–65 local farmers, which supports its buy-local philosophy. Every week, SPUD puts together a “Fresh Harvest Box” made up of fresh, seasonal produce based the best farmers’ deals that week (and all items can be substituted). So what does one traditional weekly container include? Each week is different, but this week the under-\$30 small Fresh Harvest Box contains:
5 golden delicious apples
2 lbs. fair-trade bananas (SPUD was the first grocer in Canada to carry fair-trade bananas)

4 kiwis
4 Mandarin oranges
2 cloves garlic
1 acorn squash
1.5 Lbs. white potatoes
1 lb. table carrots
1 head red lettuce
1 lb. yellow onions
1 bunch of kale
1/2 avocado
1 bunch of parsley
Now that I know my Granny Smith apples will be safe, I'm going to place an order for next week. For more information, check out www.spud.ca, or call 604.215.7783.

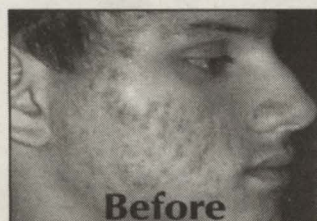
I don't get to go shopping!

I decided to call SPUD to find out why, beyond the important reasons above, I should shop SPUD—and in the words of my mother, “what would happen if [I] ended up getting bruised or deformed Granny Smith apples?”

According to SPUD's Communications Manager, Andrew Mallory, SPUD has a 100 percent guarantee on every single delivery.

“Our number-one goal is to make our customers feel comfortable,” says Mallory. “Which is also why we give free public tours of our warehouse so that people can see for themselves where their food is coming from.”

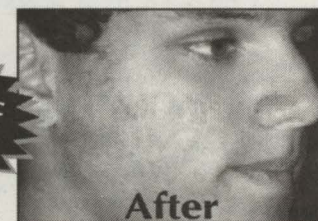
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Embracing a Life Without Money

Xania Keane, The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—Covered with a single bed sheet and sleeping on a carpeted floor, Olivier wakes up and looks at the daylight streaming through the skylight above him. He has just spent the night in the hallway between two emergency exits of an apartment building in downtown Montreal.

After taking a moment to daydream, he feels an urge to get up from his bed and take a shower. He walks down de Maisonneuve to Dawson College and into the men's locker room, pretending to be a student. He cleans his body and leaves. Olivier then walks to Mont-Royal, treading slowly over the soggy leaves, thinking about existence and enjoying the sunlight.

It is a few minutes past one o'clock. Standing on an escalator at Concordia University, Olivier climbs towards The People's Potato, an organization that offers free vegan food to students. After filling his belly, a student gives him a small, light-blue square of paper. It is an advertisement for a cheap way to get one's income taxes filed.

"Sorry, this isn't for me," he says with a French accent, giving the piece of paper back to the woman.

Olivier is one of very few people who avoid living with money.

"Progressively, it was a gradual thing. I came to adopt this lifestyle, not having any income, not having an apartment or a house, possessing only one pair of jeans or pants, only one shirt," says Olivier. "I've been living like this for two years, since the beginning of 2002."

With 25 years behind him, Olivier feels no need to stress about money, saying the city gives him enough to live without it.

"This desire of possessing almost nothing and living a simple life, I always had it inside me, even when I was in elementary school."

Olivier came to Montreal from Kigali, Rwanda, as a political refugee when he was seven years old.

"When I was in elementary school, we had no choice but to attend some workshops about Catholicism. Learning about people like Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi, I learned that it's possible to live just being a wanderer, possessing just the minimum."

"In autumn 2000, I had income taxes, had an apartment, and the things anyone who has an apartment possesses, a sound system, TV, and all that stuff. I was in a car with a friend of mine. I said to my friend, who was looking for a TV—

his was broken—I said, 'Hey, let's go to my place; I'll give you my TV.' And he said, 'Come on, you're crazy. Why would you give me your TV?' I said, 'No, no, no. I'm going to give you my TV.'

"That was the first step. Then I start-

"I now volunteer three days a week at a hospital, enough time to feel as though I'm making a difference, but not enough time to make me feel like I'm working."

"You will never see me performing anything to get money. If someone gives

"Money transforms human beings into slaves and masters. That's why I was never attracted to the work market."

ed to give up all my things, and I found myself in the street a few months later."

Olivier lives his life by simple rules: he doesn't drink alcohol or use drugs, he's a vegetarian, he doesn't steal, and he doesn't own any form of identification.

me money, I will accept it. I use money only to make phone calls or to go see movies at the theatre. If you give me a hundred bucks, I will go see a movie [...] and then give the rest away."

A major inspiration in Olivier's life is

the novel *K-Pax*.

"Truly, if you really want to know who I am, you have to read the book *K-Pax*. Even me, sometimes I forget things about my values or just lose the focus, but whenever I read that book I sort of find myself. It's weird, but that's the way it is. It's like a soul mate, but it's a book."

Olivier makes his way down Ste-Catherine Street to Chapters. He visits the novel that he's read countless times about an alien from a utopian world where everyone helps one another, where there is no greed and no money.

In order to survive without money, Olivier depends on his friends.

"I have this friend, Pablo, he lives in the McGill ghetto, and he works and everything. He let me stay in his apartment during the Christmas holidays for nearly a month because he went to visit his family in Spain. He left me his keys and the code on his phone to get the messages. I still have the code, and he lets me pick up messages. Pablo helps me. People sometimes invite me to stay in their places or allow me to wash my clothes in their apartments. I definitely rely on other people."

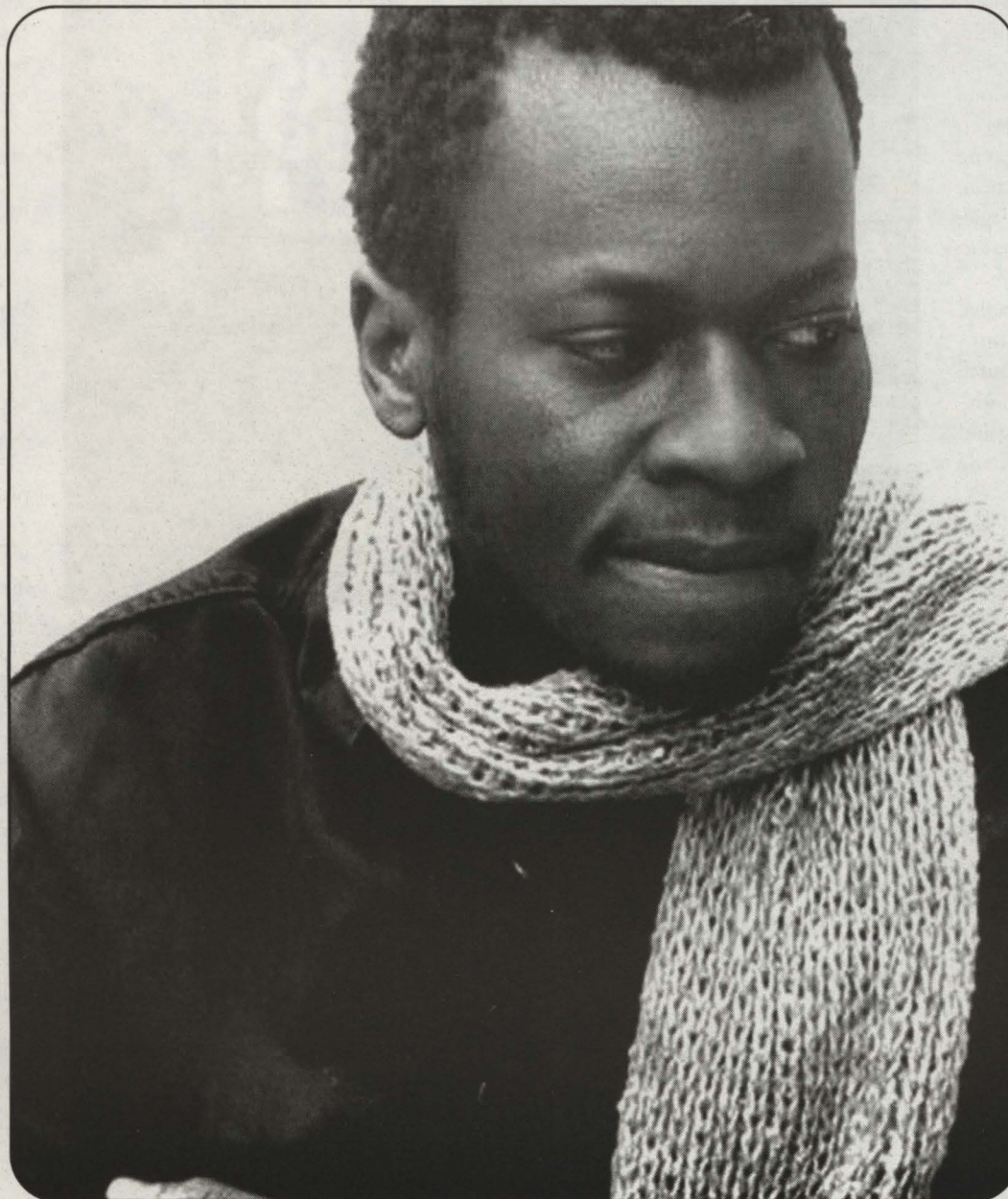
Olivier plans to live the rest of his life without money.

"Money is not good for the spirit: money kills the spirit. I don't see myself using big amounts of money to put together big projects. I believe that if something needs to be done, it will be done without money. It's not so much the money that causes stress, if you ask me, it's the things we do to get it."

"Work, most of the work we do, is very stressful. We have to perform—we have to be efficient like machines. Money transforms human beings into slaves and masters. That's why I was never attracted to the work market."

After eating supper at a volunteer-run soup kitchen, Olivier goes to meet a student from India at a café on the corner of Berri and Ste-Catherine Street. Olivier has agreed to help him improve his French in exchange for help in English.

He then goes down a small street in downtown Montreal. Entering the apartment complex from the emergency exit door that he leaves open on the side of the building, he finds the spot where his bed sheet lies.



Taking a Stand: The case for legalizing prostitution

Denise Brunson, The McGill Daily (McGill University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—If 50 Vancouver lawyers had mysteriously gone missing, the police would have noticed.

If 50 Vancouver doctors had mysteriously gone missing, every media outlet in the City would have noticed. Yet, when more than 50 Vancouver prostitutes went missing from the Eastside, it seemed like nobody noticed, and if they did, they certainly didn't seem to care.

There are many explanations for what went wrong. Some say that because the women were transient or homeless, it was hard to verify they had indeed disappeared, while others blame funding crunches that ate away at the police's capacity to investigate the case. Few have pointed to the lack of respect and concern that we as a society demonstrate for sex-trade workers.

The current justice system criminalizes sex-trade workers and assuages only the neighbours who wish the trade forced out of sight, rather than recognizing the inevitable existence of the sex trade and building a system that mutually benefits prostitutes, johns, and neighbours.

Section 213 of the Criminal Code makes the clever differentiation between the transaction itself and communicating for the purposes of the transaction. Prostitution in Canada is technically legal, as long as it's not done or talked about in the public domain.

According to Jodi Paterson, executive director of Victoria's Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS) and advocate of full sex-trade legalization, the fear of ticketing and jail is what leads street-working sex-trade workers into dangerous situations.

"Picture any other commodity, like shoes," she said. "Everybody in society buys shoes, yet imagine that shoe-sellers need to sell their shoes by getting into cars late at night hoping that they aren't beaten up and the shoes aren't stolen."

The NDP member of Parliament from Vancouver East, Libby Davies, agrees that the solicitation restrictions in the Criminal Code result in unsafe working conditions for prostitutes.

"I believe that the law itself is contributing to the great risk and harm that is happening on the street," said Davies. "[Prostitutes are] being driven away in cars, making split-second decisions and having to do their business out in back lanes in very unsafe situations."

Davies is well informed of the dynamics of the Criminal Code surrounding solicitation. She was the motivating force

behind the creation of the parliamentary subcommittee on solicitation laws, a committee within the justice portfolio.

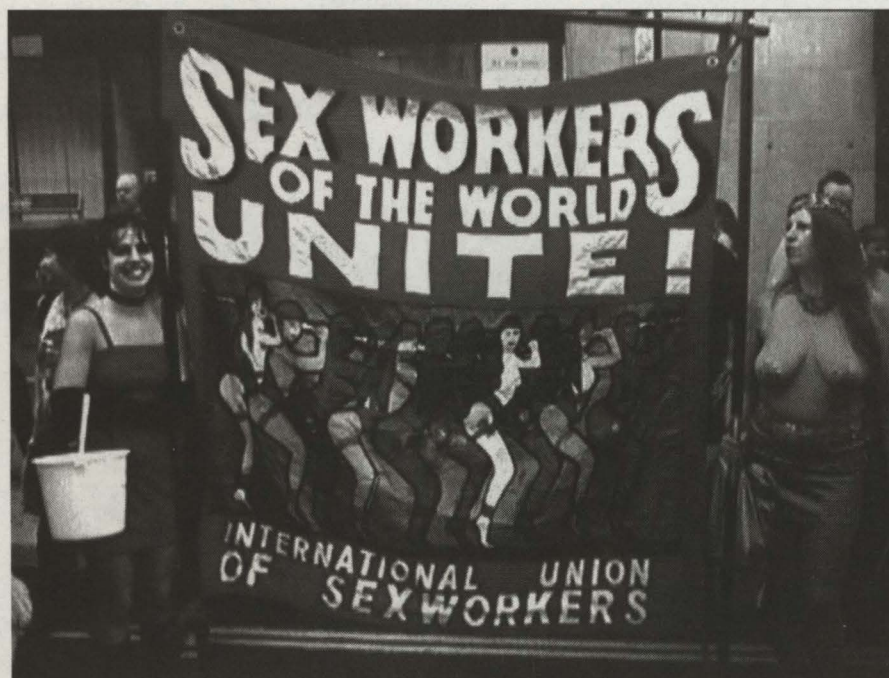
Following the deaths of so many sex-trade workers in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Davies decided that the government needed to explore changes to the Criminal Code.

"If the law was designed to protect these women, it has failed," she said. "The Criminal Code is not working. The soon-

with this issue. Criminalizing women who are marginalized is not a way to deal with this issue."

Davies has called on Justice Minister Irwin Cotler to bring forward a moratorium on the communicating law until the committee has finished its work. Although Davies grants that Cotler is "quite sympathetic and supportive of the committee," he has yet to act on the issue. The Department of Justice said it is not

"Full legalization and regulation of the trade will not improve sex-trade workers' safety and security if they continue to be ostracized by society at large."



er we understand that the sooner we can come to grips with it and find something better"

Although the committee died as a result of the election, Vancouver Centre Liberal member of Parliament and subcommittee member Hedy Fry ensured the body was re-struck to continue its analysis.

Davies is unsure of what recommendations the subcommittee will make, but is optimistic that the current system of criminalizing prostitutes will be determined outdated.

"Law enforcement is not a way to deal

prepared to comment until the committee has thoroughly reviewed the issue.

There is a growing demand for the federal government to commit funds to increasing sex-trade worker safety.

Many organizations that have historically provided advocacy and support for sex-trade workers are now attempting to turn their efforts to federal lobbying, unfortunately, with little success.

PEERS has no core funding at all. Their six-month exiting program is funded by a three-year provincial government contract, gaming money, and private donations.

"We are always going to various levels of government, begging for money," lamented Paterson.

The only federal funding they receive is for implementation of their fetal alcohol-syndrome education program. They receive no federal funds for their sex-trade worker programs.

Paterson's dream is to test a business model for prostitution as though it were a non-profit escort agency.

There would be vacation days, fair fees, a benevolent employer, worker's-compensation-board benefits, no exploitative fees like those found in escort agencies, and all the profit would go back into programs for the sex trade workers.

Paterson is quick to point out that this utopian sex-trade work environment wouldn't completely eliminate exploitation. She is clear that as long as there is a demand for child prostitutes and as long as some sex-trade workers become addicted to drugs, there will always be an outdoor stroll; however, she thinks her model would create a healthier sex-trade work force in the long run.

"If it's a benevolent employer, a society, and you see someone moving towards a heavy addiction, you just say, 'We're going to put you on a medical leave for treatment and your job will be here when you get back,'" reasoned Paterson. She feels that if escort agencies weren't so rapidly throwing their employees onto the street for drug addiction, there would be fewer street sex-workers to exploit.

Although there are many other places, such as Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and Amsterdam, that have legalized prostitution, none has a model like Paterson's. She feels that although the situation of the prostitutes may have improved in these countries through legalization and regulation, oppression is still prevalent.

"The problem is, when I look at their models, what I still see is men solving the problems for men. The women are going to be health-checked more often so that the men don't get diseases," said Paterson. "What none of the models do is give it over to women to create a model."

Paterson and many feminists argue that one of the largest social problems contributing to an unhealthy and unsafe sex trade is the unfair blame placed on women for bringing "their" dirty business into good neighbourhoods.

"People tend to talk about prostitution

as if it's a problem with the women," explained Paterson. "Women don't lure nice men. Men drive by at an astonishing rate to buy sex from them. It's not only women's problem. It's our problem."

At the same time, one of the strongest arguments against fully legalizing prostitution is rooted in women's rights. There is a theory that argues that it encourages growth in an industry that inherently oppresses women. Some feminists argue that there is no way to create a balanced power dynamic in the sex trade and that to legalize it is to endorse the oppression.

Many legalization supporters, however, counter that legalization does not increase demand for sex, but merely betters safety and regulation for current supply. They also argue that oppression is not an inherent aspect of the sex trade when societies properly respect the practice and its providers.

Said Paterson, "It's existed for thousands of years, and will continue to exist, so let's make it safe."

The case of Eastside Vancouver's mass-murder of sex-trade workers was rare because of its extremity, but violence on the stroll is nothing new.

Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter has kept track of sexual-assault calls to its help line for the last 30 years. In 1986, there were 994 reported incidents. In 2001, there were 1,407 reported incidents.

But the problem with using statistics to track rates of violence against sex-trade workers is that there is no way to factor in the large amount of sexual assaults that are never officially reported.

Stella, a Montréal resource centre for sex-trade workers that provides counselling, medical attention, and support, has a newsletter called Stella's Bulletin that allows sex-trade workers to warn one another of violent customers without necessarily filing an official report.

"The man offered \$20 for a blow job to a woman waiting for the bus. She refused. He pulled her hair and pushed her into a car. He took this woman behind a factory on the service road. He kicked her about 30 times in the head. He also bit her hand. This man is very dangerous."

John schools, which have popped up in Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver, are not meant to rehabilitate violent offenders, but are a punitive measure for individuals caught communicating in public to buy sex.

The teachers at such john schools are former prostitutes, medical professionals, and residents who live near the stroll. They attempt to provide sobering advice and encourage the johns not to continue soliciting sex.

The "student," as an alternative to

judicial consequences, usually pays for the classes.

Vancouver began such a school in 1998. Then-director of the Prostitution Alternatives Counselling and Education Society, Leonard Cler-Cunningham, was unequivocally clear that PACE does not support john schools.

"We won't be involved with it," he said. "(John school) has got nothing to do with prostitution, but everything to do with people being a so-called nuisance in a neighbourhood. It's a moral condemnation of others by high-ranking officials."

Although this viewpoint doesn't represent all sex-worker support organizations, it does coincide with the view of at least one john who, following the implementation of a john school, wrote to his local newspaper to criticize the purpose of the program.

"As a 'john' I think the police and courts are wasting a lot of time and money chasing after people like me

whose only 'criminal' activity is attempting to buy a sexual service," said the writer, who identified himself as J. Marlowe, in the *West Ender*. "Personally, I welcome john schools. I think they could be a great way for johns to get organized politically. As a client, I would like to see some form of self-regulation in the industry."

"If (the program's initiating city councillor) and the police board were genuinely concerned about the welfare of street workers, perhaps they should be asking themselves what socioeconomic factors lead these people to work the street in the first place, especially when safer, legal, indoor alternatives are available."

But the push to recognize and respect sex-trade workers cannot be from the top down. Full legalization and regulation of the trade will not improve sex-trade workers' safety and security if they continue to be ostracized by society at large.

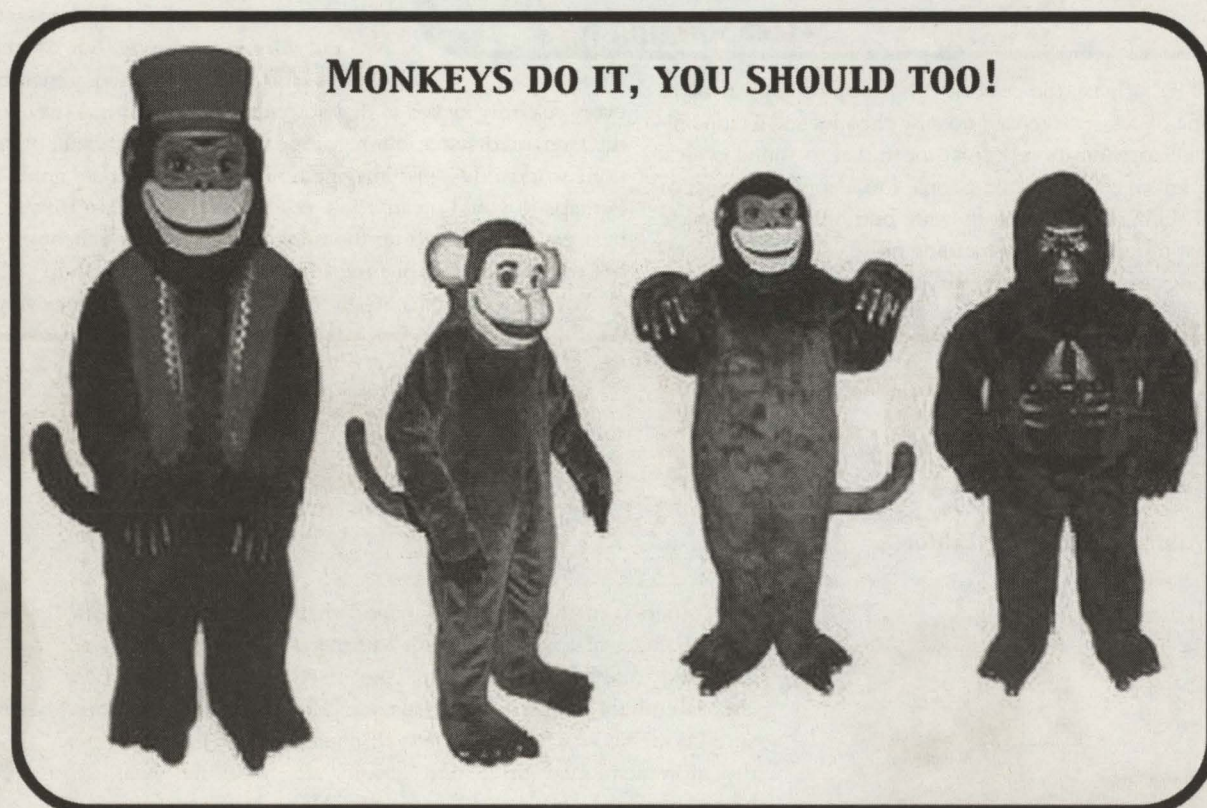
Paterson agrees that the key to creating a safer sex trade is to have compassion for sex trade workers.

"Many ran off in their teenage rebellion, and there was nobody there to catch them. Now they're adults and no one has any sympathy for them. They're so stigmatized. So stigmatized. They're treated like scum."

She further challenges people who look down on sex-trade workers to look inside themselves.

"Have you ever traded sex for something that you wanted? Have you ever had sex with someone that you didn't want to have sex with? They do it for a living, that's the difference."

Society as a whole must learn to respect sex-trade workers as they would workers in any other profession. We must recognize that sex-trade workers have the same inalienable rights as everyone else.



the other press
Write for us. Now. I mean it.

Celebrities Dig Deep into Their Louis Vuittons to Aid Tsunami Victims

Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor



Well it's official: the celebrity photo-op du jour involves one of those oversized novelty checks and a tsunami-relief organization. I don't mean that to sound cynical or anything. I know, celebrities are people too. People with lots of money. And I think it's great that they are putting even the tiniest fraction of that money toward something more useful than the re-jewel-encrusting of their limos for the upcoming Academy

every celebrity kicked in that amount—not just to aid survivors of the tsunami disaster, but to various deserving charitable organizations worldwide—just imagine how much good could come of it. Perhaps it would mean a few celebrities would have to wait until next payday to touch-up the mink lining on their helicopter pads, but really, in the big picture, I think it would be worth it.

For now, though, South Asia's bad fortune is receiving the

Awards' bashes.

Not to suggest that celebrities are any more ethically or morally bound to pony up for the victims of large-scale calamities—but, really, it would be kind of disgusting if they didn't. With programs like MTV's *Cribs* and VH1's *The Fabulous Life* showcasing the bling-obsessed, frivolous existence of many celebrities (who knew there was such a market for gold-plated toilets?), it's a relief to see that some of today's icons of song and screen still retain something resembling a conscience.

Take Sandra Bullock, for example. She donated \$1 million to the American Red Cross (the same organization she reportedly donated \$1 million to following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11). Now, sure, Sandra Bullock has lots of money (presumably someone must have paid to see *The Net* and *Miss Congeniality*), but \$1 million dollars is still pretty damned generous. If

brunt of the glitterati's good fortune as the rich and continue contributing and raising funds for the recently deceased Steven Spielberg, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jay Leno, Ellen DeGeneres, Willie Nelson, Jackie Chan, U2, and even Boyz II Men stepped up to the plate and offered their names, money to the tsunami disaster-relief efforts.

And of course, no self-respecting, newsworthy disaster-relief event would be complete until it has spawned a number of benefit concerts. In the past, these events include the Willie Nelson-headlined *Relief Austin to South Asia*, CBC's *Canada for Asia*, and a version of "We are the World," recorded by Hong Kong's Jackie Chan, Andy Lau, Jacky Cheung, and others. I would like to believe that these activities are of the best of intentions. But they always remind me of the episode where the people of Springfield believe a child and the local celebs gather (with Sting) to sing "We're Love Down the Well." When asked how the song's royalties were distributed, Krusty the Clown responds, "First, we had promotion, shipping, distribution...those limos out from themselves, you know. Whatever's left over, we throw it away."

Hopefully, that is not the case here. And, hopefully (and pocketbooks) of the many celebrated celebrity hospitals will remain open to other charities in need once the spotlight is dimmed on South Asia. Oh, and you don't have to have a drug problem in order to donate money to charity. It means, get out there and lend a dollar, a hand, or even

A MATCH MADE IN VEGAS

Amanda Aikman, Managing Editor



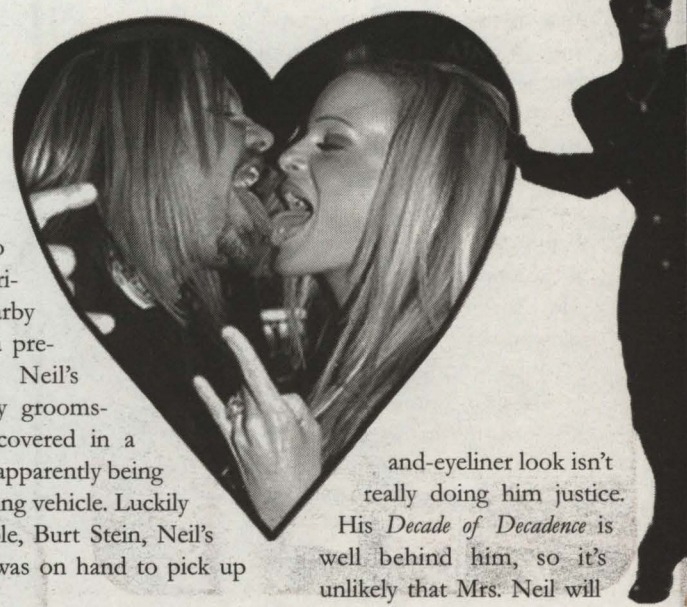
If there's anything more romantic than the singer of a washed-up '80s hair-metal band marrying a woman comprised almost entirely of bleach and silicone, I'm sure I don't know what it is. Unless of course the aforementioned bride and groom are being married in Las Vegas by MC Hammer—Charles and Di's legacy "can't touch" that.

Motley Crüe frontman Vince Neil and longtime girlfriend Lia Gerardini exchanged vows on Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Four Seasons hotel in Las Vegas. Apparently, Neil had had enough of the "Same Ol' Situation" on the "Wild Side," so he had "Dr. Feelgood" prescribe him a "Bitter Pill" to help "Kickstart [his] Heart" and get over all the other "Girls, Girls, Girls." Now that he's "Enslaved" by Gerardini's "Looks That Kill," let's just hope she isn't "Too Fast for Love."

Guests of the groom included Tommy Lee, Nikki Sixx, Dennis Rodman, and an assortment of aging playmates and third-rate hangers on. Not in attendance, however, was

Randy Kubota, who was supposed to be Neil's best man at the ceremony. Turns out, Kubota was too busy sustaining serious injuries at a nearby hospital following a pre-wedding party at Neil's home. The unlucky groomsman had been discovered in a drainage ditch after apparently being pushed from a moving vehicle. Luckily for the happy couple, Burt Stein, Neil's personal manager, was on hand to pick up the best-man slack.

Following a five-year hiatus (Was it really only five years? It seemed more like 20.), Motley Crüe have recently reunited and begun touring again. Will renowned party boy Neil be able to resist the temptations of rock and remain faithful to his new bride while on the road? Uh, have you seen Neil lately? At 43, the spandex-pants-



and-eyeliner look isn't really doing him justice. His *Decade of Decadence* is well behind him, so it's unlikely that Mrs. Neil will have that much to "Shout at the Devil" about anymore. In fact, she's probably lucky if she can get "Too Fast for Love" out of that "Rock 'N' Roll" these days. Oh, God, that's lame. I stop doing that.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY: HOLLYWOOD EXPERIENCES IDENTITY CRISIS AT THE BOX OFFICE

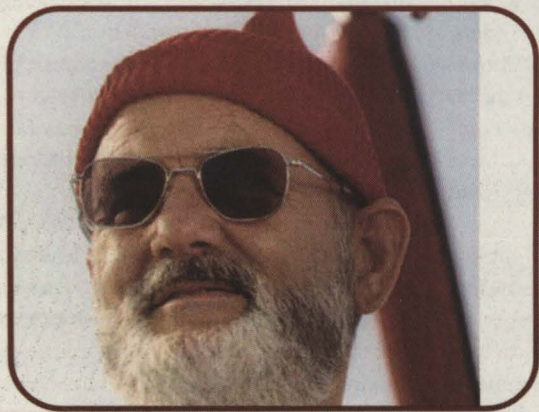
Ryan Hladun, *The Projector* (Red River College)

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Hollywood suffered from an identity crisis in 2004. Tolkien worshippers went back to their hobbit holes satisfied, and it would still be a year before the *Star Wars* flock showed its freckled face again. It seemed moviegoers didn't know where to turn, making sleeper hits out of movies like *Hero*, *Napoleon Dynamite*, and *National Treasure*.

Comic-book adaptations and teen comedies were among the best-reviewed movies of the year, whereas epics *Troy* and *Alexander* were beat up by the mean ol' critics. It was definitely a year of the bizarre—with actors, directors, and audiences alike trying new things. Here's a taste of the best and worst of the trends in movies for 2004.

MOST ASS-KICKING ACTION SCENE

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou



Hellboy, *Blade*, *Spiderman*...Bill Murray? In a fight between these and any of 2004's many butt-kickers, it's a safe bet as to who would first hit the floor. But when faced with a gang of machine gun-wielding Filipino pirates, you only want one man protecting your seafaring vessel: Bill Murray's Steve Zissou, who, armed with only a pistol, fights them off to save his crew.

ODDEST SEX SCENE

Team America: World Police



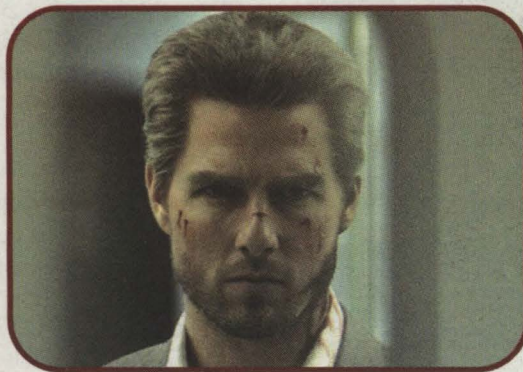
What comes to mind when you think of puppet sex? A pre-adolescent exploring curiosity for the first time with GI Joe and Barbie, perhaps? Well, I'm convinced that's exactly what Trey Parker and Matt Stone (creators of *South Park*) were thinking with the controversial scene in their *Team America: World Police*, where two marionettes passionately embrace—absent

of the necessary equipment, of course (the definition of a "pointless" sex scene).

COOLEST HAIRDO

Tom Cruise in *Collateral*

If best-actor awards were based on coolness alone, Tom Cruise would be a shoe-in for his performance in *Collateral*. But, unfortunately, he'll have to settle for best hair instead, sporting silver locks as the lethal assassin,



Vincent.

LAMEST HAIRDO

Colin Farrell in *Alexander*

Whilst conquering the known world, pleasing his army,

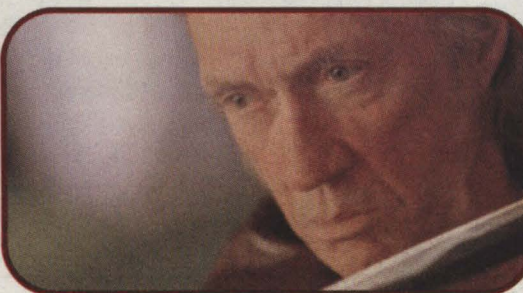


and taking a wife, Alexander the Great still had time for a dye job in between battles (or so director Oliver Stone would have you believe).

BEST DEATH

David Carradine in *Kill Bill: Volume 2*

The five-point palm-exploding heart technique! The conclusion to Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* films was movie-going bliss. It was difficult not to hang on every word exchanged between Uma Thurman's Bride and



David Carradine's Bill in the final scene. And when the aforementioned deadly manoeuvre was finally used to cap off the Bride's revenge, it was a subtle, yet perfectly satisfying end.

WORST ACCENT

Tom Hanks

Tom Hanks is a long way from *Forrest Gump*. In three different movies last year—*The Ladykillers*, *The Terminal*, and *Polar Express*—Hanks attempted an accent. Each accent distracted from each movie. But, hey, who cares—it's Tom Hanks, right?

MOST RIDICULOUS SUPER-HERO COSTUME

Catwoman

Okay, so this is just because I had to get a stab at the debacle that was *Catwoman*. For once, the crying on the internet

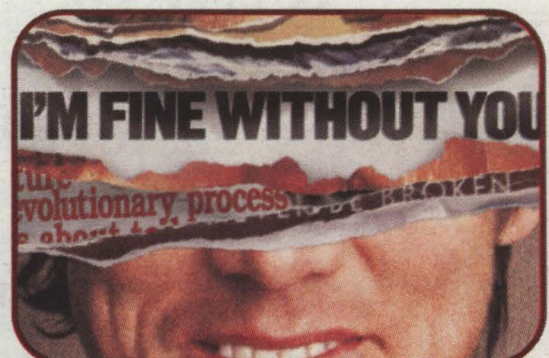


was for good reason. Was the costume sexy? Yes. But for those of us who are over our teenage crushes on superheroes, it was just unnecessary. The costume was the least of the film's worries, however.

HARDEST TITLE TO REMEMBER

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind—a delight to watch, but a nightmare to say. You should be able to say a



movie's title three times fast without getting tongue-tied. Runners-up include *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*. The easiest to remember? *Meet the Fockers*.

Documentary Puts Fox News under the Microscope

Tracey Lindeman-Jarvis, CUP Arts Bureau Chief



MONTREAL (CUP)—A high-school teacher of mine used to say, "Believe half of what you see, and nothing of what you hear." Perhaps she had Fox News in mind. When the Fox News Channel was founded in 1996, its newly appointed CEO and chair, Roger Ailes, claimed to have the best of intentions.

"We'd like to be premiere journalists. We'd like to restore objectivity where we find it lacking," said the renowned Republican at a 1996 press conference. "We just expect to do fine, balanced journalism."

However, director and producer Robert Greenwald finds this very notion laughable, and has gone to great lengths to disprove Fox News and its "Fair and Balanced" slogan with his new documen-

tary, *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*.

From Walter Cronkite to Al Franken, Greenwald has rallied a veritable who's who of former Fox News employees, journalists, and media analysts to, in effect, say the same thing: Rupert Murdoch is an evil, corrupt, right-wing opportunist and Fox News is his bastard child with the Republican party.

And while some, if not all of it, may be true, *Outfoxed* is not the bastion of fairness and balance, either.

A timeline of Murdoch's acquisitions and list of his media assets are splashed across the screen in true PowerPoint fashion. However, the list is quite distorted: it pegs his assets at 100 cable channels, 175 newspapers, 40 book imprints, and 40 tel-

evision stations, among other properties. And while Murdoch, as the CEO and chair of the News Corp. media conglomerate, is most definitely a media mogul, *Outfoxed* presents the numbers as direct corporate ownership.

When the film says Murdoch owns 40 book imprints, it neglects to say he owns only a couple of publishing houses—one of them being HarperCollins, an umbrella corporation under which about 40 smaller publishers and presses operate. *Outfoxed's* claims are not false, but they're also not exactly true, which is a little misleading and leaves the impression of grasping at straws.

Aside from its faults and an acute case of talking-head syndrome, *Outfoxed* is nonetheless an interesting documentary. Greenwald's small production team, with the help of some MoveOn.org members, recorded and watched Fox News 24 hours a day, seven days a week for months to find incidents of fear-mongering, commentary "disguised" as news, and shouting matches between hosts and guests.

The documentary takes a leftist look at a conservative media network, ensuring that there will be numerous clashes of opinion. However, while some of the testimony is just stating the obvious, some of it is hard to ignore.

A former producer for a Washington, DC, Fox affiliate in the late '80s and early '90s (a few short years after Murdoch purchased Fox TV in 1985), Frank

O'Donnell recounts an incident where the news team was ordered to cut away from their newscast to air a "fawning tribute to Ronald Reagan."

"We were stunned because, up until that point, we were allowed to do legitimate news," O'Donnell said. "And suddenly we were ordered from the top to...carry Republican, right-wing propaganda."

In addition, *Outfoxed* reveals the Fox News Channel team would receive daily memos from senior vice-president John Moody, outlining what would be mentioned and what would be ignored in the day's news.

"I've never heard of any other network nor any other legitimate news organization doing that," said famous anchor Walter Cronkite of the memos. "Newspaper or broadcast."

While it is very easy to demonize Fox for its questionable content and validity, it has set a trend in the way television news is now being served to the public on other networks.

"You cannot outfox Fox. But MSNBC and the others have tried," said Jeff Cohen, a former Fox News Channel expert, media and political commentator, and founder of Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting. "Since the corporate ownership of the other channels does not allow anyone to counter-program against Fox, you know, in television, the inclination is imitation."

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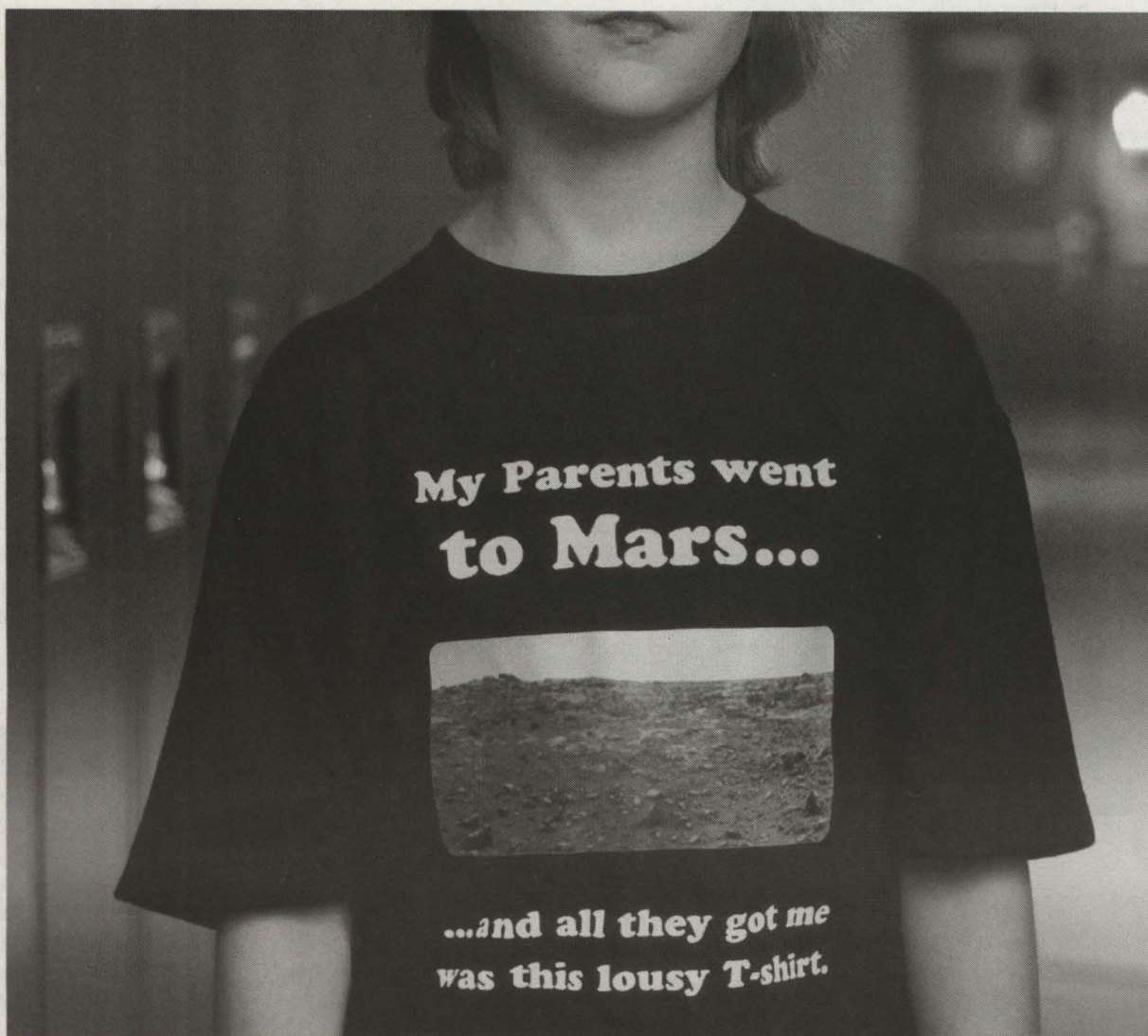
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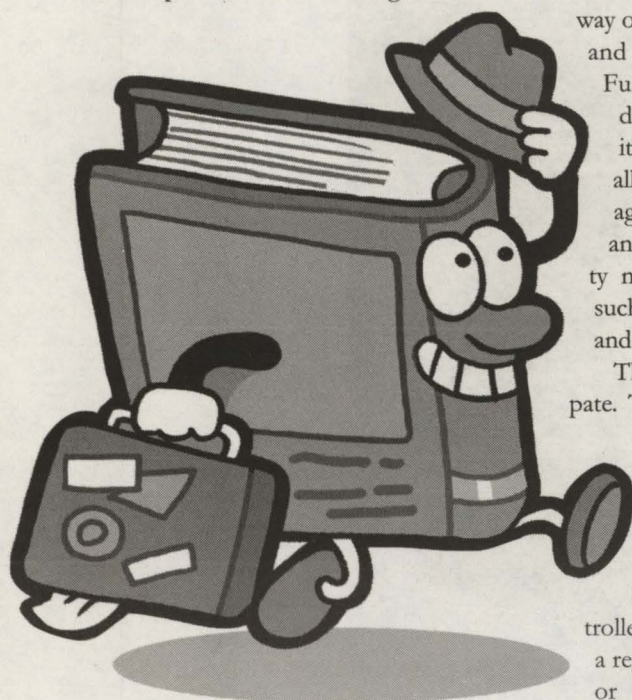
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Passing the Book

Luisa Santos, *The Link* (Concordia University)

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Resting on a wooden bench on the corner of de Maisonneuve and Guy is a weather-beaten copy of J.D. Salinger's *Nine Stories*. With seemingly reckless abandon, it sits there defenseless and vulnerable to the cold snow and unforgiving wind. Its battered looks impress a careless disregard.



However, this lonely paperback is simply waiting—waiting and preying on the curiosity of an unsuspecting passerby who will be lured by the kaleidoscopic realm of the printed word and pick up the book.

Inside, stickered onto the inside flap of its front cover, is a label that reads, "I'm a very special book. You see, I'm travelling the world making new friends. I hope I've made another one in you. If so, please go to www.bookcrossing.com..."

The simple promise of a free book has segued into an invitation into the literary world of BookCrossing.com, a growing online society of over 300,000 book lovers (with a daily increase of over 300 people).

BookCrossing is the act of leaving a registered book in a public place in the hope that it will be picked up and read by another who will, in turn, do the same. (Book registration consists of entering the book's ISBN on the website and acquiring a BookCrossing ID number.) Ron and Kaori Hornbaker, who developed BookCrossing.com as a means of turning the world into a giant library, first conceptualized the idea in March 2001. The website is maintained by Humankind Systems Inc., an American-based software

and internet development company, and was inspired by the popularity of PhotoTag.com and WheresGeorge.com (sites that track the whereabouts of disposable cameras and US currency, respectively).

According to the website, BookCrossing.com is the Hornbakers' way of celebrating the joys of reading and is completely non-profit. Funding is generated through donations and purchases made at its online supply store. With an alliterated mandate that encourages participants to "read, register, and release," this online community now boasts BookCrossers from such distant places as Egypt, Peru, and Taiwan.

There are various ways to participate. The most popular relies on the synergetic happenstance of having a random book-lover stumble upon a book that has been released "into the wild" by a BookCrosser. A more conservative approach is a "controlled release," which entails passing a registered book directly to a friend or colleague. Either way, with a BCID, the book's journey can be monitored from person to person.

Sarah Russell, an active BookCrosser, says that had she not happened upon certain books, she would never have chosen them on her own, and that the best part of BookCrossing is being able to track the current location of books that she had previously released.

"It's a fascinating and fun experience to trace books. One book that I had released at work found its way to a castle in the south of France," she says.

Russell works at a café in Vancouver and, on top of releasing and catching books, she manages the shop's Official BookCrossing.com Zone (OBCZ). A zone is established with the permission of a location's manager and consists of a shelf, box, etc. that becomes a permanent site for book exchanges. Location is determined by the space's public accessibility and is usually posterized with a zone sign. In Russell's case, the sign reads "Free Books."

"I liked the idea of randomly leaving books around and started using BookCrossing on a personal level. After a while I wanted to bring that online community to my (physical) community, so I started an OBCZ," says Russell.

Aside from these zones and book releases, BookCrossing members can also

write book reviews online, sign up for email discussion lists, and participate in the site's forum.

The forum is divided into numerous themes, each one catering to different aspects of reading. Some forums include: Newbies, a section used to acquaint new users with the "ins-and-outs" of BookCrossing; Activists Only, for those dedicated to spreading and expanding the movement; and Release Techniques, which asks more experienced BookCrossers to share their expertise with novice book releasers. The site now hosts forums in German, Dutch, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

All this heightens the interactivity of the site. But for those interested in more corporeal contact, BookCrossing also offers meet-ups, meetings that take place on the second Tuesday of every month at

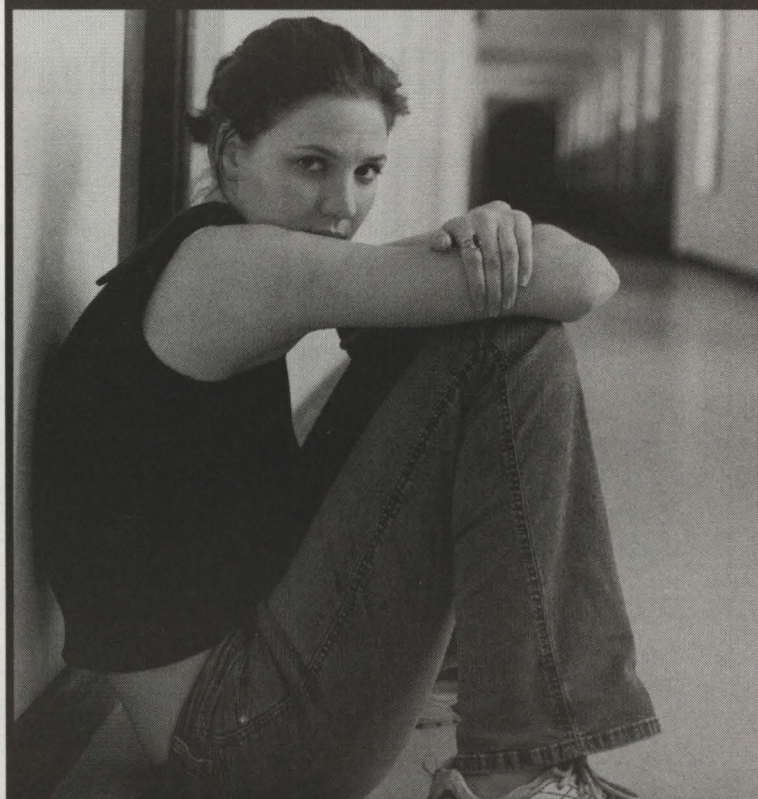
7pm local time. These International BookCrossing Meet-Up Days are organized in conjunction with MeetUp.com. According to the site, it connects BookCrossers with other members living in the same city for an "informal, social interaction."

"I've met quite a few people this way—other avid readers," Russell says. "Recently, we even took part in a Secret Santa book exchange with other BookCrossing groups around the continent. I ended up sending out a gift to somewhere in Buffalo and was sent one from Newfoundland."

"That's the best part of BookCrossing," she adds. "It helps marry the immediacy of the internet with the intimacy of reading."

You are not alone

The Students' Union's Pride Collective provides resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students at the college. The Collective meets Thursdays at 3:00 in room 328 in the students' union building at the New Westminster Campus. All lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered, questioning and allied students are welcome.



Douglas Students' Union
Canadian Federation of Students Local 18



What's On Around Town

Campus Events

Our Show

Art by Douglas employees and their partners. To Feb 25. Amelia Douglas Gallery. For more information, call 604.527.5465

Caroline Adderson

Literature Alive presents novelist Caroline Adderson. Jan 20, 12pm. Room 3810, New West Campus

UBC Guitar Quartet

Presented by Noon at New West. Featuring Ryan Enns, Stanton Jack, Michael Strutt, and Rafael Vivanco. Jan 20, 12:30pm. Performing Arts Theatre, New West Campus

Faculty Recital

Presented by Noon at New West. Featuring Rob Copeman-Haynes on bass, Brenda Fedoruk on flute, and Ellen Silverman on piano. Jan 27, 12:30pm. Performing Arts Theatre, New West Campus

Theatre

Beggars at the Waters of Immortality

Anthony F. Ingram directs three one-act plays by William Butler Yeats: *At the Hawk's Well*, *The Cat and the Moon*, and *Purgatory*. To Jan 29. Pacific Theatre. For tickets and information, call 604.731.5518

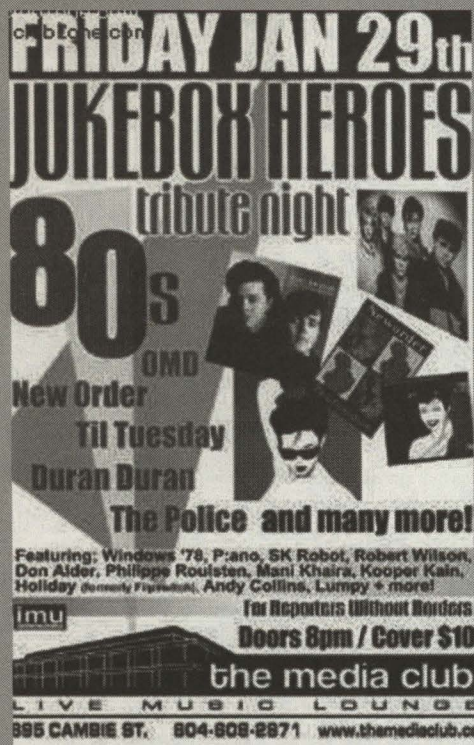
The Bacchae—An Electronic Opera

Screaming Weenie Productions presents an original adaptation of Euripides' tragedy, backed by driving tribal house beats composed and live-mixed by local DJ Tracey D, featuring performances by Rachel Flood, Troy Jackson, Rup Sidhu, Christine Stoddard, Deanne Temple, and RC Weslowski. To Jan 29. Open Studios. Tickets at Little Sister's and Zulu Records. For information, call 604.251.1047

A Streetcar Named Desire

Jeremy Tow directs Gina Chiarelli, Lucia Frangione, Craig Erickson, and Craig March in

Amanda's Pick Of The Week



Who doesn't like gettin' down for a good cause? Well, if *you* don't, then stay away from the Media Club on Jan 29. That's the night of **Jukebox Heroes**, a benefit for Reporters Without Borders, featuring performances by Windows '78, Piano, SK Robot, Robert Wilson, Mani Khaira, Kooper Kain, Don Alder, Philippe Roulsten, Holiday (formerly Flywheel), Andy Collins, Lumpy & more! For those of us old enough to actually remember the '80s, this night is sure to be a "totally awesome" or "radical" trip down memory lane. For those of you born post-Bon Jovi, that means it'll be the "shiznit." For more information, call 604.608.2871



Tennessee Williams' classic drama. To Jan 30. Norman Rothstein Theatre. For tickets and information, call the Festival Box Office, 604.257.0366

Stage One Festival of Solo Theatre

Vancouver Fringe Festival presents a showcase of high-calibre solo performers. Feb. 2-6. Waterfront Theatre. Tickets at Festival Box Office, 604.257.0366

Concerts

Pet Sounds

All-ages benefit for the BC SPCA Biscuit Fund, which provides emergency medical treatment of homeless animals. Performers include the Evaporators, Vancougar, the Doers, the Nasty One, and Black Rice. Jan 22, 7pm. Seylenn Hall, North Van. Tickets \$10 at the door

Sum 41

Pop-punks from Toronto play tunes from new CD, *Chuck*. Jan 27, 7:30pm. PNE Forum. Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

Q-Bert & DJ Jazzy Jeff

Co-founder of the Skratch Piklz tour with Philly party-rocker, with guests Grand Wizzard Theodore, Flare, Jumi, and Yoga Frog. Jan 27. Plush. Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

Clutch

Indie prog-metal artists play tunes from latest CD, *Blast Tyrant*. Feb 5, 9 pm. Commodore Ballroom. Tickets at Ticketmaster, 604.280.4444

Galleries

Transfigurations

Works by Kevin Greisch, James Lindsay, and Leah Rosenberg. To Jan 29. Helen Pitt Gallery. For information, call 604.681.6740

Truckstops & Trailerparks: The White Trash Art Show

Showing until Feb 5. Libra Room. For information, call 604.255.3787

Garry Winogrand

Photos from 1978-80. To Feb 6. Monte Clark Gallery. For information, call 604.730.5000

The Elephant has Four Hearts:

Photographs of Nyau Rituals

Photos from Malawi by Douglas Curran. To Feb 27. Presentation House Gallery. For information, call 604.986.1351

The Way Things Sometimes Are



CF Miley,
Opinions Editor

It only took three days for me to buckle under and give up on my New Year's resolutions this year. Now that I've had three weeks to heal from my self-inflicted ego-bruising, I thought I'd devote this edition of "The Way Things Sometimes Are" to my most recent failed attempt at self-change. So sit back, fire up a smoke (I know you've started smoking again by now), and batten down your personal hatches. Sometimes, things get a wee bit strange.

Miley's 1st New Year's Resolution, 2005: Break Free of Old Patterns and Be More Spontaneous

I scrapped this resolution on January 3 at about 8:45am, when it suddenly became obvious to me that I may not be the type of person that can make sound decisions when acting spontaneously.

Miley's 2nd New Year's Resolution, 2005: Start Working Out.

My new running shoes are freaking wicked. They are made of reflective, space-age polymers and cost about as much as my first car. They haven't moved from my shoe rack since "The Great Meltdown of 2005." It all began on January 3 at about 8:30am, supposedly a statutory holiday this year.

I'd been asleep for roughly three hours when I was ripped from dreamland by a sound not unlike someone disposing of several thousand empty wine bottles through a shredder. I jumped out of bed and peeked out the window, half expecting to see rival gangs of tomcats reenacting scenes from *Caligula* while being beaten with shovels and drowned. Instead, I saw a crew of men lollygagging around two tree-trimming trucks while two younger men worked their asses off hauling branches around. Musta been a union outfit.

Something snapped deep inside me. Without pausing to think, I slapped on my new runners and jogged over to give them a piece of my mind. Somewhere between the freezing cold air hitting my flesh and the end of the driveway, I developed a plan. I needed to go for a run anyway, so I'd just take this opportunity to freak these guys out before jogging around the neighbourhood. There was only one problem: I was buck-naked.

Instead of turning back and putting some clothes on, I rushed up to the first truck. Several burly men were gathered around discussing whatever it is that lazy tree-trimmers discuss. The conversation



that followed went something like this:

Me (jogging on the spot): "Hey guys, how's it goin'?"

Bearded Man in Overalls with Look of Disbelief: "Uhhh, pretty good, I guess."

Me (naked but for my new shoes): "Oh yah. Check this out."

I then proceeded to launch into naked jumping jacks, followed by several squat lunges. The men just stood there staring—aghast, but unable to look away. I quickly fired off a flourish of high kicks à la David Lee Roth before finishing up my routine with several wind sprints. Red-faced and breathing hard, I turned and sprinted back home.

As I raced around and shut all the curtains in my suite, I caught a glimpse of the men all pointing at my place and laughing. I instantly realized two things: all the blood in my entire body had apparently

rushed to my cheeks, leaving the rest of me frightfully clammy; and that it was indeed a cold January morning—shrinkage had laid its chilly grasp on my favourite man-parts. I wanted to tape a couple of Hot Shots to my chota (the spot between ball sac and bum hole) and run back out to redeem the tattered shreds of my male pride with a show more reflective of my usual endowment. I wanted to leap out onto my second-story balcony with a cape on and loudly explain about shrinkage in George Costanza fashion.

Instead, I sat down and thought about my complete and abject failure to make good on my New Year's resolutions. It turns out that naked exercise is only fun in Blink-182 videos. In real life, it's just a crushing way to kick off the New Year.

Post-Secondary Education: The Key to Canada's Future

Stephen Harper, Special to Canadian University Press



OTTAWA (CUP)—If Canada is to be competitive in the global economy of the 21st century, we must have the best post-secondary education system possible. Perhaps more importantly, we also need widespread access to quality post-secondary education to ensure that we have better-informed citizens, a richer culture, and more fulfilling lives.

From a public policy perspective, our investment in post-secondary education is advantageous to the economy and society as a whole because university and college graduates make a higher-than-average contribution to the tax revenues upon which the rest of our social services depend. The 15 percent of adult Canadians who have university degrees contribute 35 percent of the taxes collect-

ed in this country. Thus, the future of our social safety net is inextricably linked to building and maintaining a quality system of post-secondary education.

Education is an area of provincial responsibility in our federation, but since the Second World War, the federal government has played an important role—in co-operation with the provinces—in supporting post-secondary education through the funding of university-based research and direct support for students and their families through loans and grants.

I believe that the federal and provincial governments, working in partnership, both have a responsibility to ensure that no student who has the desire and ability to learn is denied a post-secondary educa-

tion due to lack of financial means. The biggest barrier to post-secondary education today is the rising cost of tuition fees. To address this challenge, governments will have to reassess the existing student-loan system and deal with the issue of increasing student debt loads.

During the mid-'90s, the federal Liberal government balanced the budget primarily by reducing transfers to the provinces—including transfers for post-secondary education. More recently, even as increased federal dollars have been found for health and other areas (including advertising contracts and wasteful firearms registries), the Canada Social Transfer, which helps the provinces fund post-secondary education, has been sharply reduced. The result of this Liberal

neglect has been a 135-percent tuition increase over ten years, higher student debt loads, larger classes, shrinking numbers of faculty, and crumbling facilities. While tuition fees increased dramatically, the grant portions of student loans have not kept pace. This has meant that the average debt burden on a graduating student ranges between \$22,000 and \$25,000 per student.

The Conservative Party has proposed several measures to deal with these challenges in our policy statement and our platform in the last election, including:

Working with the provinces to help overcome barriers to access the current Canada Student Loans program

Increasing family income thresholds for loan eligibility or even eliminating the inclusion of parental income in assessing student-loan applications altogether

Introducing income-contingent loan

repayment to give graduates more flexibility in repaying their loans

Redirecting funds from the narrow Millennium Scholarship program to the broader Canada Student Loans program

New measures to encourage parents to save for their children's education

A Registered Lifetime Savings Program that would allow people to withdraw savings tax-free to pay for major expenses such as post-secondary or continuing education for themselves or their children

One measure the federal government could easily undertake to help post-secondary students would be the removal of the taxable status of scholarships, bursaries, and grants over \$3,000. Students who earn this financial help through their own accomplishments should not be punished by having to pay higher taxes.

In addition to addressing the needs of

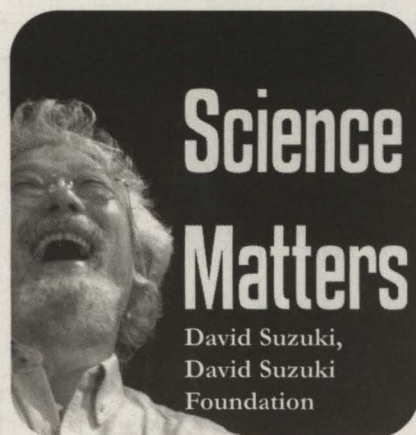
students and their families, we also have to address the needs of colleges and universities as institutions. The Conservative Party believes that the best support the federal government can provide to the work of our post-secondary institutions is through independent, merit-based research granting agencies such as the Medical Research Council, National Research Council, National Science and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. A Conservative government will ensure that these bodies have sufficient resources to do their important work without political interference.

These measures we have proposed to help students and their families with the costs of post-secondary education, and to assist post-secondary institutions directly (especially by supporting research) are by no means a panacea. It will take years of

rebuilding to overcome a decade of Liberal inattention to post-secondary education, and we recognize that the New Conservative Party still has to refine its ideas in this area. Our proposals on post-secondary education—like the rest of our policies—will be discussed and debated at our upcoming policy convention in March in Montréal. It is our hope that students and faculty from across Canada will consult, observe, and participate in this policy-development process so that the next Conservative government is one that gives post-secondary education the attention that it truly needs and deserves.

Stephen Harper is the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Editor's Note from CF Miley: *If you honestly believe that Stephen Harper has working (and working-poor) students' best interests in mind, I have an extra-full nelson that I will gladly sell you—cheap.*



Tsunami Relief Shows Humanity's Capacity to Give

When a wall of water crashed across the shorelines of several Asian countries on December 26, it was a powerful reminder of just how vulnerable humanity can be to the forces of nature—especially people living in developing countries.

Dramatic and devastating, the tsunami left at least 150,000 dead, millions homeless, and caused billions of dollars in damage. Fortunately, the world has responded with an enormous outpouring of support. Within days of the disaster, politicians in developed countries began to announce aid packages. Donations from the public have been even more remarkable. In fact, some aid agencies have even stopped accepting relief money specifically for the tsunami disaster because they simply don't have the capacity to spend it on the ground in the afflicted countries.

But in all our efforts to bring some hope to those suffering, we mustn't forget that the developing world needs our help every day. Those living in poorer countries do not often have access to the services and infrastructure that we take

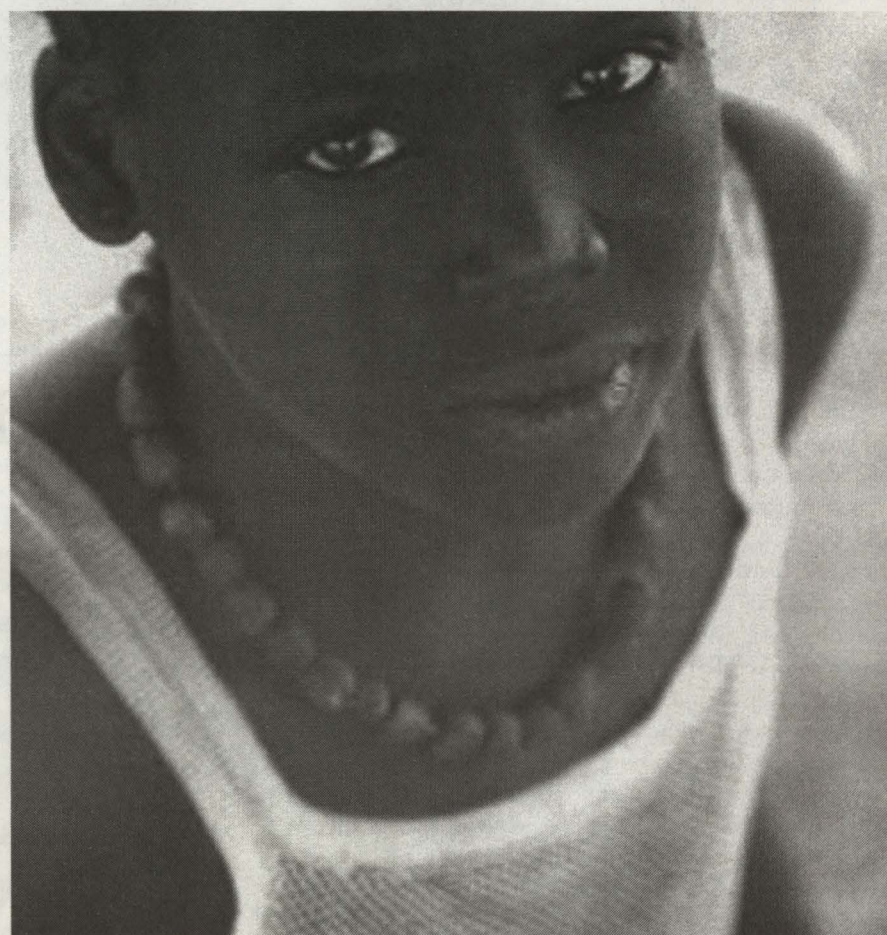
for granted. At the best of times they may not have healthy food, medical services, clean water, or sanitation. In times of crisis, what little these countries have to protect their citizens can easily be overwhelmed.

We also must not forget that the tsunami isn't the only humanitarian crisis facing the developing world today. Last year, more than 1.5 million Africans died from AIDS. Every year, more than two million people die from tuberculosis and one million people die from malaria—most of them in developing countries. These diseases are part of the reason why nearly one-fifth of children born in sub-Saharan Africa will not live past the age of five.

The tsunami has also taken the spotlight off other long-suffering regions, such as Sudan and Uganda. Millions of refugees in these areas are still living in squalid camps. Such camps are breeding grounds for the same diseases that experts are concerned could become rampant in areas affected by the tsunami because of a lack of sanitation.

None of this is to say that countries suffering in the wake of the tsunami don't need our help—they do. But the tsunami was really a sobering reality check. Our world is unpredictable and disaster could strike any time. When it does, it often hurts poorer regions the most. Yet, one glance at the list of casualties from the tsunami and it becomes clear that the disaster's reach goes far beyond Asia. Canadians, Swedes, Americans, and those of many other nationalities also died. Our world has really become a much smaller place.

Since the disaster, there have been calls for a better tsunami early-warning system. That seems obvious. But warnings are only useful if they are heeded. And we are



getting all sorts of warnings about the future that we continue to ignore. We were told, for example, that coral reefs and mangrove forests helped buffer coastlines from damaging waves. Yet many such ecosystems in the Indian Ocean were lost to development in recent years—ecosystems that may have offered some protection to some areas from the tsunami.

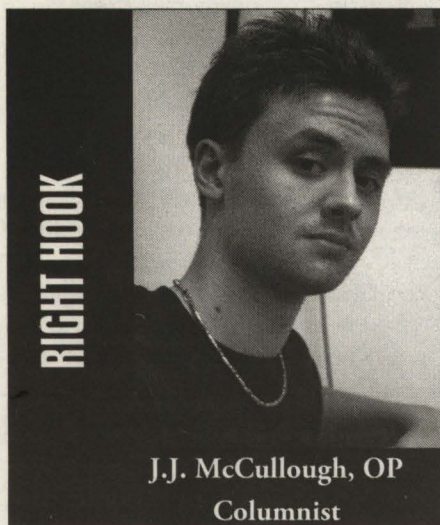
Scientists are also continuing to warn us about the effects of climate change—especially on developing nations that lack the infrastructure to respond to more fre-

quent severe weather events, rising sea levels, and changing precipitation patterns that a warming world is expected to bring.

Unfortunately, while the developed world's response to the tsunami disaster has been heartening, our response to climate change has been tepid at best. It's not that humanity lacks the capacity to respond. Obviously, judging from recent events, humanity's capacity for compassion can be profound. It's just unfortunate that it takes a tsunami to trigger it.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

RIGHT HOOK



J.J. McCullough, OP
Columnist

The Groups Behind the Posters

As longtime readers of this paper will know, I've often been accused of being paranoid, hateful, ignorant, or just generally a right-wing kook whenever I accuse "the left" of being little more than a gang of hysterical, socialist, America-haters. "J.J.," they say, "you're making gross generalizations. Not everyone who hates George W. Bush or the United States is some sort of flag-waving pinko Bolshevik." This much is obviously true. There are plenty of perfectly sane people who oppose Bush on reasonable partisan grounds, and lots of intelligent liberals who express valid concerns about US foreign policy around the world.

Unfortunately, the sad reality is that the moderate voices and sane arguments of these reasonable liberals are increasingly being drowned out by a much larger, and better-organized, far-left establishment. An establishment with views that are fringe, radical, and in many cases, profoundly disgusting in their political extremism. Yet despite its radical agenda, this powerful establishment is in many ways the face of the modern left. It organizes the street protests, prints the posters, and hosts the public conferences. It relies on ignorant public support to give the illusion of legitimacy to views that would otherwise remain permanently on the political fringe.

But you don't need to take my word for it. Part of the magic of the internet is that with a few quick searches you can find all sorts of interesting dirt on organizations that are hiding far more than their posters allege. For example, I'm sure you've all seen those black-and-white posters in and around campus with "BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW" in big letters. They're advertising for yet another "day of action" to be held at the Vancouver Art Gallery on January 20, to "protest" Bush's inauguration. Nothing too extreme, right? Well, aside from protesting a democratically elected presi-

dent. But lots of people hate Bush.

The posters advertise a URL, mawovancouver.org although I doubt if many students bother visiting the site. I wish they would, as anyone who gives the page a quick browse will find it impossible to deny that Vancouver's street protests are overwhelmingly being organized by a strange fringe collection of socialists, anarchists, and other assorted extremist factions of the far, far left.

The site of the organization hosting the rally is called "Mobilization Against War and Occupation" (MAWO) and houses a collection of articles, flyers, and posters with slogans and rhetoric that borders on self-parody with its extremity. "Canada Out of Afghanistan" screams one petition, declaring the presence of peacekeepers in the war-torn nation to be an act of "Canadian Imperialism." A newsletter discusses the current situation in Iraq, describing the cycle of beheadings and murders as acts of a "People's Resistance" acting legitimately against "colonial occupiers." "Long live the Palestinian Intifada" another part of the site proclaims, justifying suicide bombings as legitimate retaliations against "Zionist aggression and occupation." The MAWO people are associated with just about every extremist cause you can think of. They even find time to advocate Quebec separation.

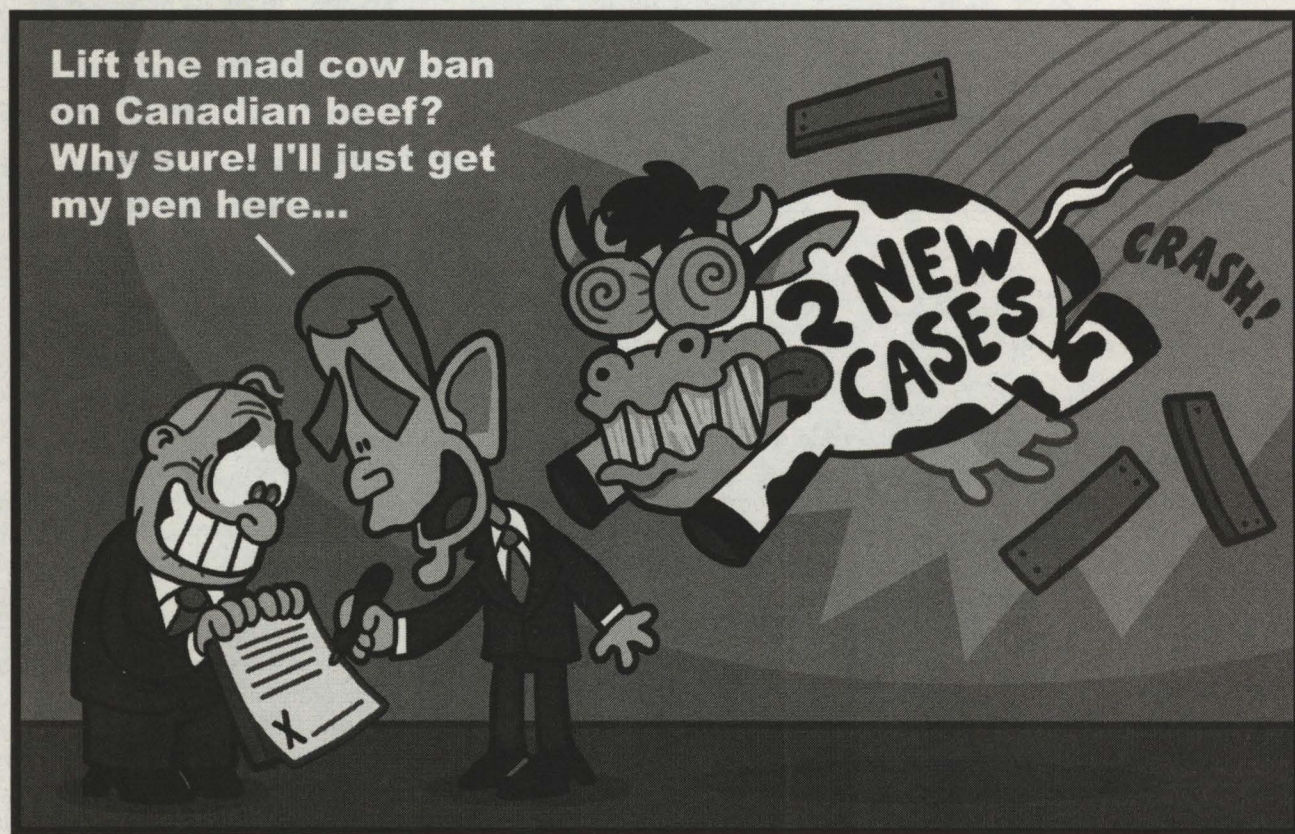
Not surprisingly, MAWO's past record of organized events is no less radical, though they often try to market them as all-inclusive events. Some of their past "victories" listed on the site include hosting public forums in support of "war resisters" (ie., American soldiers who illegally abandon the military they voluntarily joined), street marches showing "solidarity" with the Communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro, as well as about a dozen rallies condemning every aspect of the 2003 Iraq war.

The January 20 rally currently being advertised looks to be more of the same. The site lists three speakers scheduled for the event, Hazem Jamjoum, Mostafa Henawi, and Liisa Schofield. A quick Google search informs us that the first two men are deeply involved with various viciously anti-Israeli, radical Palestinian organizations (you know, the kind that refuse to even refer to the country by name and instead call it the "Zionist entity"), while the third is a columnist at an openly Marxist magazine (*The New Socialist*). Isn't it fun to know that this is the sort of thing that our very own Student Union (whose name is proudly displayed on MAWO's "endorsing members" page) feels the need to advertise for? Trudging out to Vancouver on a cold day to show solidarity with suicide bombers and dictators! Sign me up!

A lot of Canadian students hold left-of-centre views, and I am willing to accept that. However, even a bitter conservative like me knows that the majority of us, regardless of partisan stripes, do not support Palestinian terrorism or Iraqi beheadings, and do not consider Israel to be an illegal imperialist power whose "Zionist" presence must be permanently extinguished from the Middle East. The majority of Canadians do not consider their own peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan and Haiti—who risk their lives to provide civilians with food, water, and safety—to be "imperialist occupiers," "colonialists," or "racists" deserving of scorn.

It may be unfair and it may be unrepresentative to the majority of moderate liberals, but the unfortunate reality is that extremist groups like MAWO and their socialist allies are fast becoming the public face of the modern left. To say that crypto-Communists and anti-Semitic terrorist apologists are controlling the majority of anti-war, anti-Bush protests and rallies is not simply the paranoid conspiracy theories of a right-wing nutbar, it's the reality. If you're a liberal, check out the URLs on posters for yourself, and see if these are the kinds of groups you want representing you. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Editorial Cartoon



The World of Sports

Darren Paterson, Sports Editor

Extra! Extra!

The Canadian kids finally came through! After years of silver heartbreak, culminat-



ing in last year's third-period choke, the Canadian junior hockey team has struck gold. The stacked team cruised through the tournament, setting numerous records along the way, thanks in part to the NHL lockout leaving many players who might've had obligations to their NHL teams eligible to compete. Players like Patrice Bergeron who won the tournament scoring title, was named MVP, and made the tournament all-star team. Other players on the all-star team were Jeff Carter and Dion Phaneuf (Canada), Alexander Ovechkin (Russia), Ryan Suter (US), and goaltender Marek Schwarz (Czech Republic).

In other world news, British yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur is four days ahead of schedule in her bid for a new solo round-the-world record. MacArthur left from Ushant, France, and reached Cape Horn in a record 44 days, 23 hours, and 36 minutes. The current record holder is Frenchman Francis Joyon, who covered the world in 72 days, 22 hours, 54 minutes, and 22 seconds, early in 2004. When she reached Cape Horn, MacArthur had travelled over 19,000 nautical miles of the 25,000-nautical-mile voyage. She needs

Honourable Mention

Super-rookie Ben Roethlisberger became the first NFL quarterback to win the Associated Press's Offensive Rookie of the Year award since 1957, and Peyton



Manning (surprise, surprise) won his second AP MVP award, thanks to his record 49 touchdowns and 121.1 passer rating. Manning also set a new NFL playoff record for most passing yards in a half with 360 (by the end of the game he had 457, which was 32 short of setting a record for yards in a game).

Wade Boggs and Ryne Sandberg were also honoured this year, when they were inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame. Boggs received the third-most votes ever (474), to trail only Nolan Ryan (491) and George Brett (488), and his voting percentage of 91.86 was the 19th highest in Hall history.

It's a Wacky World

It seems that the sports world is never lacking in wackiness. Recently, Randy Moss was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for his fake mooning of the crowd after a touchdown catch. Moss's remark? "Ain't nothing but ten grand. What's ten grand to me?" What's even sillier was the ridiculous overreaction by the play-by-play announcer: "That is a *disgusting* act by Randy Moss." Moss's team, the Minnesota Vikings, requested that the announcer not be allowed to commentate their next game. Their request was denied.

Ten grand doesn't appear to be much to boxing promoter Don King either.

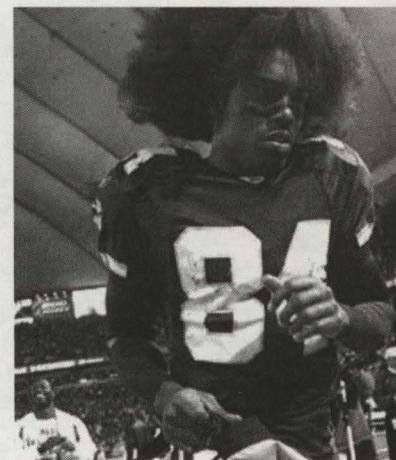
King has filed a \$2.5-BILLION lawsuit against ESPN for sullyng his reputation. The lawsuit claimed that a *SportsCentury* segment, aired last May, accused King of being "a snake-oil salesman, a shameless huckster, and worse." But my question is this: what kind of shameless huckster would file a \$2.5-billion lawsuit? None of the ones I know. Go get 'em King!

And how's this for a laugh? Baseball has set its goal to crack down on steroids in the MLB. Yeah, right. Like they're ever going to get drugs out of that sport.

Speaking of baseball, the estimated cost to demolish Montreal's Olympic Stadium is more than \$500 million, and it would supposedly take two years to complete the project. Now there's a worthy

In the CFL, Joe Paopao was dealt the honour of being named GM of the Ottawa Renegades. He will also remain head coach of the team (unlike the situation in Calgary, where the Stampeders' new owners fired their president, GM, and coach).

And finally, here's a shout out to Nicolas Gill, who retired from competitive judo at the age of 32. Gill is Canada's most successful judoka and has won Olympic silver and bronze, as well as three world-championship medals, three Pan Am medals, and 10 national titles.



project for Quebec's provincial government.

The Best of Sport

Darren Paterson, Sports Editor

As those of you who read my section may have noticed, I usually take a little time to reflect on what I think is a problem in sports in "The Down Side of Sports." However, in addition to this week's down side, I have also been inspired to write about the brighter side of sports. There's nothing like an international disaster to bring out the best in the world of sports, so I'd like to recognize some of the people that have stepped up.

Sporting organizations and athletes around the world have donated generously to tsunami-relief efforts to date. Athletes big and small, rich and poor, famous and not, have made contributions and, while Alex Rodriguez isn't giving a few million out of his \$152-million salary, the effort is to be commended.

Most of the relief effort has come in the form of money, and most of that money has come from auctions. Auctions such as the one held by the San Francisco Giants, which raised \$109,650 US. This is only slightly more than the \$81,500 that was raised through the selling of a Manchester United jersey and English National jersey. And smaller contributions—such as the \$5,000 raised in the auctioning of the tennis rackets used by Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams, or the several hundred raised by CFL kicker Paul McCallum when he auctioned off his shoes and helmet from his infamous playoff loss to the Lions—have also been

much appreciated.

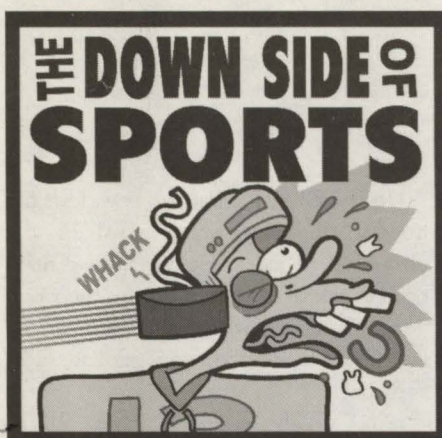
But athletes have done more than just collect other people's money by selling their stuff. Many athletes have donated money out of their own pockets in sums much larger than you or I could ever generate. Several NBA players were donating \$1,000 US for every point they scored in a game. Standout NFL rookie, Ben Roethlisberger, donated his first playoff paycheck of \$18,000. Tennis player Carlos Moya donated all of the \$52,000 that he received for winning the Chennai Open, an event from which the ATP, the governing body of men's tennis, also donated the \$25,000 sanctioning fee. But here's my favourite: the four-man German luge team, participants in a sport that is not at all well funded, donated all of the \$2,150 US prize money they received for winning the Luge World Cup.

But relief money has come in much larger sums than that as the Olympic-bid team for Madrid 2012 has donated

\$162,715 CDN, the International Olympic committee gave \$1 million US, and FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation combined to donate \$3 million dollars in relief funding.

And the greatest contribution that sport has made has been through the athletes who have taken time out of their posh lifestyles and done much more than simply send money. The world's leading cricket players have volunteered to play a charity game between team Asia and team World, in which the Asian players will be led by Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan, who has already spent much of his time helping to deliver food and console the survivors of the tsunami.

And the fact that all of these athletes and athletic organizations—along with many others that I have not mentioned—have used their gifts to benefit the world outside of their sports represents, to me, the best of what sports have to offer.



Darren Paterson, Sports Editor

You know, these are upsetting times, and with all that's going on, I'm very happy to have this outlet for my feelings. Thanks to this little column, I am able to ground myself and vent my emotions by reflecting upon the down side of sports.

And for this edition, I would like to ask why it is that "professional" athletes—that is to say, athletes whose main goal in life involves sport, and who compete at the highest possible levels of sport—still end up making questionable decisions outside of their athletic lives. And I'm not just talking about the athletes who are stupid enough to do steroids, because while that is definitely a questionable decision, at least the reason is clearly defined (to get ahead). The people I'm talking about are the athletes that get sucked into the "glamour life" that comes

with their million-dollar paycheques.

Why is it that athletes like Theoren Fleury sacrifice their careers for an addiction to drugs? Why is it that athletes like Dany Heatley drive drunk? Why is it that athletes like Dennis Rodman squander away their money on trinkets and baubles? Why is it that athletes like Mike Danton plot to kill their agents who won them their money? Well...I admit that Danton's case is a unique one. But my point remains the same. Why do these athletes, who are so disciplined in their athletic lives, do such idiotic things in their personal lives?

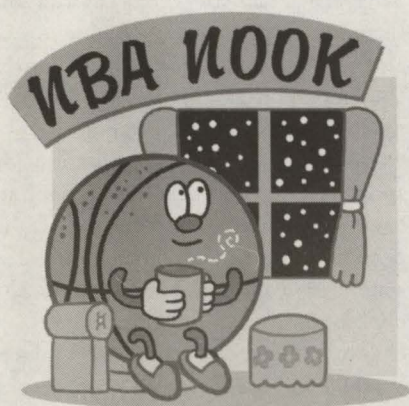
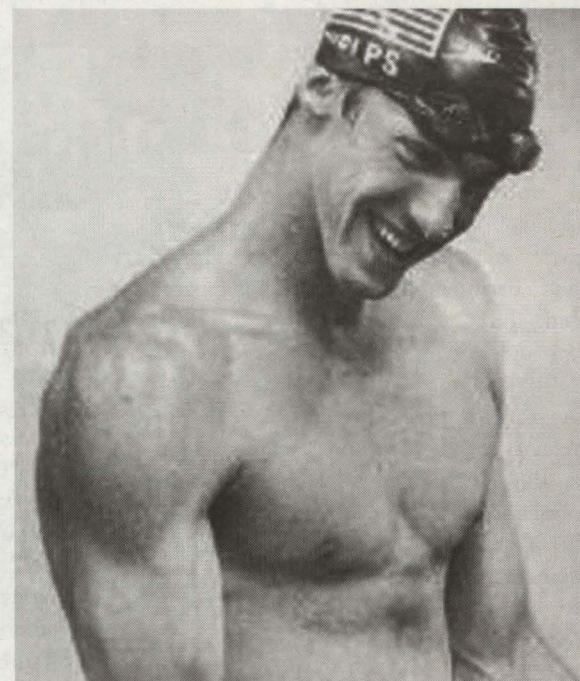
My favourite example is that of Michael Phelps. Phelps, for those of you don't know, is a 19-year-old American who won a record eight medals in the Athens Olympics with six of them made of gold. And I guess he was pretty pleased with himself because, to celebrate, he went out and got shitfaced before getting in his car and going for a drive. Luckily for everyone else, Phelps, in his inebriated state, was stopped by a state trooper after he ran a stop sign. But why did an athlete, who set such an amazing standard at the highest possible level of competition, go out and do something as stupid as driving drunk? And don't tell me it was a mistake of youth, because, when I was 19, I didn't have nearly as disciplined a lifestyle as he has, but I still managed to avoid drunk driving.

No, youth had little to do with Phelps'

mistake. I believe that the real problem has two roots. One is that athletes who devote their lives to success in their sport miss out on things like having fun with their friends. So, when they succeed at their athletic goals, they naturally want to catch up on what they missed. And, sadly, this usually includes drugs and alcohol. So, when a guy like Michael Phelps—who likely spent his entire teenage life going from the pool, to his school, to his home—completes his goal and wins six Olympic gold medals, the first thing he does to catch up on what he missed is go out and get drunk.

Which leads to the second problem: when athletes find themselves with the time and money necessary to make important life decisions, they also find themselves without the knowledge of how to make the *right* decisions. This problem is reinforced by the coaches, teachers, and parents of the athletes. These are the people who are supposed to be providing children with the tools necessary to make smart choices in life, and yet they neglect this duty and instead focus on teaching the athletes how to succeed within their sport alone.

Parents keep telling their kids to win, win, win. Coaches tell them how to win. Teachers give them leeway so that they'll have time to win. But nobody tells them what to do after they win. And if we ever want to see an end to athletes making dumb life choices, then someone in this process is going to have to take the time and make the effort to ensure that athletes are just as smart and disciplined in the real world as they are in the sporting world. And, the fact that that doesn't always happen, represents, to me, the down side of sports.



Darren Paterson, Sports Editor

Well, there's really nothing happening on the NHL front, and since I'm likely to only receive one more newsworthy story from that league, I'd like to use the space normally reserved for Canucks/Lockout Corner to highlight what I think is the next best

league right now, the NBA. So let's get started, shall we?

Boy, the NBA has really been shaken up with all the player transactions lately, and the power structure has really changed. Of course, this was to be expected, but what nobody expected was that Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns would be leading the league with a 31–5 record despite their lack of a big guy down low. Nash, with his league-leading 11.1 assists per game, has powered the Suns to a surprising run with the help of three-point ace Quentin Richardson and emerging superstar Amare Stoudemire.

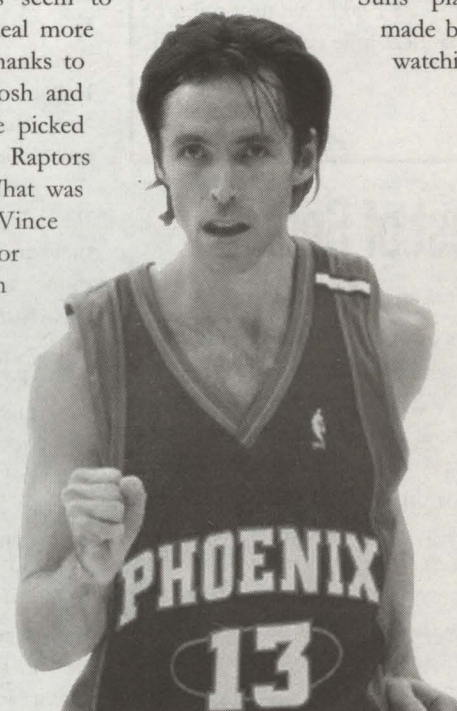
Another player who has made a big impact on his new team is Shaquille O'Neal, who, along with Dwayne Wade, has helped the Miami Heat to a 28–10 record, good enough for first place in the East. But Shaq's old pal and teammate Kobe Bryant has been doing an okay job by himself, and is second in the league in points scored and points per game.

Another trade that made a big splash

was Vince Carter from the Toronto Raptors to the New Jersey Nets. Unexpectedly, the Raptors seem to have benefited from this deal more than New Jersey. This is thanks to the emergence of Chris Bosh and Morris Peterson, who have picked up the slack and made the Raptors look like a strong team. What was not surprising was that Vince Carter, in his first game for the Nets, went down with an injury to begin his tenure.

The team that's where it's supposed to be right now is the Atlanta Hawks, who are 6–26 behind the expansion Charlotte Bobcats (8–23). The team that's not where it's supposed to be in the standings is the Phoenix Suns. But a lot can change before our next issue, so if you

get a chance then you should take some time to watch Nash and the Suns play—they have made basketball worth watching again.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Events Calendar

Fri, Jan 21

* Women's Volleyball

vs. CNC Kodiaks (New West) @ 6:30pm

* Men's Volleyball

vs. CNC Kodiaks (New West) @ 8:15pm

Women's Basketball

6:30pm @ UNBC Timberwolves (Prince George)

Men's Basketball

8:15pm @ UNBC Timberwolves (Prince George)

Sat, Jan 22

* Women's Volleyball

vs. Cariboo Sun Demons (New West) @ 6:00pm

* Men's Volleyball

vs. Cariboo Sun Demons (New West) @ 8:00pm

Women's Basketball

6:00pm @ Cariboo Sun Demons (Kamloops)

Men's Basketball

8:00pm @ Cariboo Sun Demons (Kamloops)

Jan 22-23

* Badminton

BCCAA Tournament #1 (Coquitlam)

Fri, Jan 28

* Women's Volleyball

vs. CBC Bearcats (Coquitlam) @ 6:30pm

* Men's Volleyball

vs. CBC Bearcats (Coquitlam) @ 8:15pm

Jan 29-30

Badminton

BCCAA Tournament #2 @ Langara Falcons

(Venue TBA)

Fri, Feb 4

Women's Volleyball

6:00pm @ Langara Falcons (Vancouver)

Men's Volleyball

8:00pm @ Langara Falcons (Vancouver)

* Women's Basketball

vs. Langara Falcons (New West) @ 6:30pm

* Men's Basketball

vs. Langara Falcons (New West) @ 8:15pm

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At the bank machine, Tues Nov. 16, 12:45pm. You were wearing a Ramones shirt; I was waiting for my friend by the Cashier's office. You've got the PIN to my heart. If you'd like to make a deposit, email me: moneyhoney@yahoo.ca

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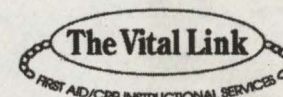
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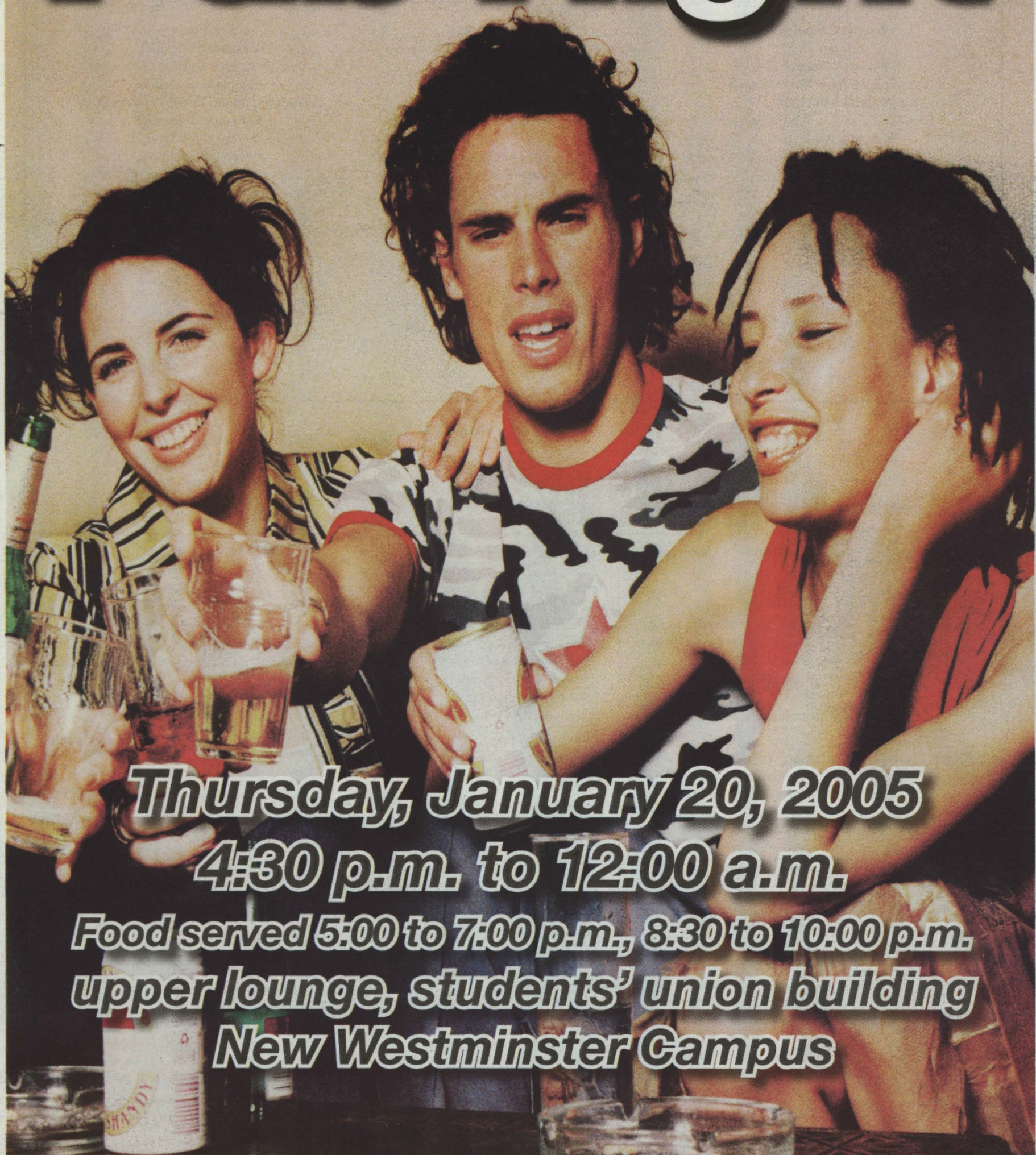
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New Westminster Campus

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